



The Black Sands

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SURVIVORS REUNITE FOR 68TH ANNIVERSARY OF IWO JIMA.

By Jeanne Theismann



Iwo Jima veterans gather for a group photo Feb. 16 during a reunion marking the 68th anniversary of the battle. Photo by Jeanne Theismann.

ARLINGTON — THE MORNING of Feb. 19, 1945, dawned eerily quiet as PFC Carl Norton made his way toward the shores of the remote Japanese island of Iwo Jima. But in an instant, the 20-millimeter dual purpose guns buried in the side

of Mount Suribachi exploded, erupting into one of the bloodiest battles in U.S. history.

"I was one of the first to make it onto the island without getting shot," said Norton, who knew his odds of survival that day were slim. "It was a

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terrible, terrible battle, with two sides who hated each other willing to fight until the bitter end.”

Norton was badly wounded in the ensuing skirmish and later awarded a Purple Heart for his heroics. Now 93 years old, he joined 20 other Iwo Jima survivors at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington over the weekend to mark the 68th anniversary of the battle.

“Dad never spoke of Iwo Jima when we were growing up,” said Norton’s daughter Becky Dunlop, who lives with her husband George in Arlington. “But he came to the dedication of the World War II Memorial in 2004 as part of an Honor Flight and it was then that we saw him lighting up and beginning to share his service stories.”

Other survivors attending the reunion included George Alden Sr. of Fort Worth, TX, who was 17-years-old when he enlisted in the Marines.

“I was wounded during that first day of battle,” recalled Alden, who was caught in a Japanese crossfire and shot five times as his 5th Marine Division struggled to gain footing in the shifting volcanic ash of Red Beach 2. “I lost track of time after that but remember a few days later seeing the flag being raised atop Mount Suribachi.”

“It was a terrible, terrible battle, with two sides who hated each other willing to fight until the bitter end.”

The raising of the American flag by five Marines and one Navy Corpsman took place on Feb. 23, 1945, and was immortalized in a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal.

“I went in the day the flag went up,” said Lou Smith of Bellevue, Ky. “I never heard so much noise and cheering as when I looked up and saw the flag flying. But the very next morning I was hit with a hand grenade.”

Smith was one of 19,000 troops wounded in the 35-day battle that claimed more than 21,000 Japanese lives. Additionally, approximately one-third of all Marines killed in action during WWII were killed on Iwo Jima, where more than 70,000 Americans fought and 6,821 died — 5,931 of them Marines.

“No one knows exactly how many Iwo survivors are still alive,” said Fairfax High School history teacher Shayne Jarosz, executive director of the Iwo Jima

Association of America and organizer of the four-day reunion. “Just last week I got word that five more had passed away. It’s sad to realize that we are at the precipice of the end of an era.”

More than 250 people joined the veterans for the reunion, which included a symposium, dinner gala with music donated by Radio King Orchestra and a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico.

“A docent was answering questions from a group of school children when he spotted Dad,” said Norton’s daughter Rachel. “Everyone’s jaw just dropped as the children realized they were hearing about the Battle of Iwo Jima from someone who was there. Afterwards, they all lined up to shake Dad’s hand.”

Norton’s eyes welled up when asked about Helen, the stateside nurse he met during his recovery who has been his wife for 65 years. Helen took her future husband to church on their first date, and from there he went on to study under Billy Graham and spend his life in the ministry.

“God has blessed us with so much,” Helen Norton said as her husband wiped tears from his eyes. “Please tell the young people today to be thankful. We may have our problems but there is no greater country in the world than the United States of America.”

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Iwo Jima Veterans gather at the Marine Corps Memorial. Photo by Jeanne Theismann.

IJAA 68TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION AND SYMPOSIUM

By John A. Butler II

THE 116 PRE-REGISTERED attendees (including 20 Iwo veterans, their families and legacy members, Young Marines, historians and others with an interest in the Iwo Jima legacy) began arriving Feb. 14 at the Sheraton Pentagon City in Arlington, Va., for the 68th Iwo Jima Anniversary Reunion and Symposium. The only other planned activity for the day was a mid-afternoon meeting of the IJAA Board of Directors.

LtGen Larry Snowden, IJAA chairman emeritus; LtGen Hank Stackpole, chairman; and LtGen Norm Smith, newly appointed IJAA president presided. Gen Smith welcomed the board members and introduced the newly appointed director of operations, Col Gary Anderson. Others in attendance were Col

Warren Wiedhahn, executive vice president; Shayne Jarroz, executive director; Ray Elliott, communications director; and advisory board members Bonnie Haynes, Bill Rockey, Gene Bell, John Butler, and Ira Rigger. Also present was acting recording secretary Nancy Brown.

The board approved expanding its membership from 11 to 15, renewed the contract with Military Historical Tours, and agreed to take action to have a plaque honoring Joe Rosenthal placed in the National Museum of the Marine Corps. A motion was also made and passed to review the cost for



Japanese Ambassador to the United States, the Hon. Kinichiro Sasae, thanks the Marine Corps for its assistance to the Japanese people after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami

registration for 2014.

Following adjournment, board members and attendees convened in the hospitality room where everyone shared Iwo Jima stories and mementos, including battle maps, photos and books.

On Friday, LtGen Robert R. Blackman, USMC (Ret), current director of the Heritage Foundation; and the Hon. Kinichiro Sasae, Japanese ambassador to the United States conducted the welcoming ceremony. Sasae thanked the Marine Corps for its assistance to the Japanese people after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

"I admire and thank the Iwo Jima Association of America for continuing the legacy of this momentous battle

so that our younger generations will remember the struggles of the generations that came before them," he said. "Although the casualties on both sides were staggering, America and Japan have transformed our relationship from that of being enemies to being allies."

Others at the event included a contingent of USMC/NROTC cadets from VMI and their senior instructor, Col Patrick Looney, USMC.

Later, Gen Snowden laid a wreath at U.S. Marine Corps Memorial in Arlington on behalf of the attending Iwo veterans.

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The Saturday symposium opened with Young Marines posting the colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation.

The first guest was Peter Johnson, an analyst and commentator from Fox News, and the son of a Marine who served on Iwo Jima. Fox News aired portions of "An Iwo Jima Remembrance" and other highlights on its national broadcasts.

Dr. Charles Neimyer, director of Marine Corps history at Marine Corps University in Quantico, talked about the Battle of Iwo Jima and its aftermath.

Douglas Birkey, director for government relations at the Air Force Association, spoke about the Army Air Corps, including the B-29 campaign and how it was impacted following the capture of Iwo Jima.

Special guest Gen James Mattis, former commander of the U.S. Central Command, spoke at the buffet lunch. He is well known for his colorful and sometimes controversial quotes and his command of Marines in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. He illustrated the impact of Iwo Jima on today's Marine with a story. Prior to the assault on Fallujah, a Marine corporal told Gen Mattis, who was his division commander: "Marines took Iwo Jima, Sir. Fallujah ain't s---."

BGen Mark R Wise discussed the Marine Corps War Fighting Lab. He described the gear and weapons of today's Marine Corps, as well as what is on the drawing board for the future.

The final event of the day was a panel of Iwo Jima veterans that included Gen Snowden, Ira Rigger, Wilson Horde and Dr. Craig Leman. Gen Snowden recalled his experience as a young company commander in the Fourth Marine Division. Rigger accounted for his actions as a Seabee, and Horde recalled his role as a seaman in an offshore supporting LCI.

Leman talked about his experience as a replacement platoon leader. The role of these officers, who arrived at Iwo with replacement drafts attached to each division and who came ashore with shore party platoons on D-Day until called to the front, has largely been untold in the histories of Iwo. Their casualty rate was heavy, reported Leman, who was wounded himself after six days of hard combat with men he had never trained with nor knew before his arrival. He was a member of the Special OCS class convened at Camp Lejeune in late '44 that provided the bulk of replacement platoon leaders for the battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. More than half of Leman's OCS classmates were killed or wounded.

The reception and banquet concluded the evening. The Marine Corps Band provided a melody of patriotic music, including all the other service songs and the Marine Corps Hymn as more than 300 attendees filed into the banquet room.

Guest of Honor for the banquet was Gen James F. Amos, CMC, accompanied by his wife.



*LtGen Larry Snowden, IJAA
chairman emeritus*



*LtGen Norm Smith, newly-appointed
IJAA president IJAA*

CMC GEN AMOS SPEAKS AT REUNION DINNER HONORING LTGEN SNOWDEN

By Ray Elliott

THE 2013 IJAA Reunion Symposium's gala dinner in February honored LtGen Larry Snowden as a founder of the Reunion of Honor ceremony held on Iwo Jima, bringing Americans and Japanese together to commemorate the historic 1945 battle and the sacrifices made by so many warriors.

Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen James F. Amos, was invited to provide remarks for the evening.

"He fought that epic battle," Amos said of Snowden, "along with all his brothers, and they sacrificed so much, and yet [he] came back to Tokyo for three years, and it was there that he built a reputation as a statesman and a great leader and mediator between two nations that fought so desperately and so hard."

Then he addressed Snowden directly, "I'm glad you've been a patriot and a leader of this organization right from the very beginning."

Amos described the 37-year Marine veteran's time on Iwo Jima during the battle. Snowden was the commanding officer of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines. After 27 days of fighting, he was wounded, evacuated to Guam where he refused to stay, saying that the Marines on the island and the men of Fox Company were his family. Snowden said he wasn't seriously wounded and talked his way on the manifest of a plane back to Iwo Jima, continued to lead his company, and was wounded a second time.

"He represents ... that indomitable spirit," Amos said. "That spirit that says, you know, I'm going to be a part of the 27,000 forces that take that island."

Amos added: "Yet Larry Snowden ... got well beyond [his] battles and improved the relationships with the Japanese."

So much so, that Snowden, acting on an idea from a group of Iwo Jima survivors, was instrumental in arranging permission with the Japanese government to hold the first Reunion of Honor on the island in

1995 for the 50th anniversary of the battle.

In his comments, Snowden described how the trip came about. "Having lived and worked in Japan, I had a lot of contacts in the Japanese government," he said. "I had known Ambassador Walter Mondale. So with the help of Warren Wiedhahn, who was my transportation expert, we went to Tokyo. And with the help of Ambassador Mondale, we overwhelmed the bureaucrats in the foreign ministry. They said, 'We are deeply concerned that you Americans will use that trip to Iwo Jima to brag about your victory.' I pledged not only my body, but my entire soul, to them and said this will never happen. When we go, we will go with the sole purpose to honor those who died there from both sides. We'll honor those Japanese who fought to the death. We'll honor our Marines who lost their lives on Iwo. We pay tribute to their families. Family worship — ancestral worship — is a very important part of their culture.

"Thanks to a lot of help along the way," he continued, "we got the first group launched in 1995 for the 50th anniversary of the battle — but the first anniversary, if you will, of the Reunion of Honor. And now it's been so successful ... it's gone every year since. And on the very first one in 1995, we had the widow of LtGen Kuribayashi as our speaker. She spoke in old, classical Japanese and most of the other Japanese couldn't understand what she was saying. But we later got a translation of what she said, and the theme of her remarks was: 'We must never let this happen again.'"

In other remarks made earlier to the audience, Gen Amos talked about current events for today's Marine Corps that seemed to reinforce that same theme expressed back in 1995.

Describing the situation in Afghanistan, the commandant said the Marine Corps had gone from seven infantry battalions on the ground in Afghanistan — plus all the aviation, combat support,

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combat logistics and service support — down to two.

“We’ve gone from 20,000 Marines down to 7,000 Marines,” he said, “and I’m here to report to you that where we are down in the southern part of Afghanistan, it’s really going quite well. ... Four or five years ago, when we went in, it was arguably the most dangerous spot in all of Afghanistan.

“Things have settled down to the point where the battalion commander of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines down in the Garmser-Marjah area looked at me and he said, ‘General, the Afghan National Army, the army we’ve been training, the ones we’ve been responsible for, the ones that are the future of that country, are overmatching the enemy and overmatching the Taliban in every single instance. The Taliban and the enemy cannot do anything. They can’t move, they can’t come back because of the Afghan National Army. At Sangin, the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines’ LtCol Don Tomich was standing out there with his Marines. He said exactly the same thing.”

In President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address in February, he announced that 34,000 troops would be coming out this year — reducing the number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan by more than half.

“If we stay until the end of 2014, the campaign plan is going to work,” Amos reported. “I think we’re going to be okay — and I tell you that you need to hear that from me — I think we’re going to be okay. I think it’s the right thing to do. ... When we finally leave in 2014, it’s not: leave when the mission is complete. We’ll have set the greatest conditions for the greatest possibility of success for that country ... and that’s all we can do. Much like Iraq, when the Marines pulled out of Iraq, out of the Anbar Province after slugging it out for about six or eight years, we pulled out under a victory pennant, and we left it as good as it could possibly be.”

Using the span of Snowden’s career, Amos compared military equipment and technology at the time of World War II until his retirement in 1979.

“On Iwo Jima, Larry Snowden carried the M-1

Garand rifle. It weighed 11 pounds. It had an 8-round clip and a maximum effective range of 500 meters,” Amos said. “His radio, the SCR-300, weighed about 38 pounds, so the radio operator had that baby and humped it on his back right next to the company commander — they were attached at the hip. You could communicate up to about three miles with that radio, and there was no body armor. We didn’t have all that stuff we wear today. We just had this tin hat that you put on top of that kind of carbon fiber thing in those days and that was all you wore back then. Sometimes you pour water in it, sometimes you bathe in it, but that was it. For aviation that was flying overhead supporting Larry Snowden and his Marines there was a 19-cylinder radial engine F-4 Corsair with a max speed of 415 knots, with a max range of about 500 miles.

“Fast-forward a little bit and think about what it was like in 1979 when LtGen Larry Snowden retired,” the commandant continued. “The Marines were being fielded the M-16A2 rifle. It weighed 8 pounds and carried a 30-round magazine and had a max effective range of 800 meters. The standard field radio no longer weighed 38 pounds. It was a ‘Prick 77’ and weighed 14 pounds, and you could talk a hell of a long ways with the PRC-77. Marine infantry wore flak jackets. We had body armor for the first time in our lives, in addition to a brand new helmet.

“Retiring in 1979, he was the chief of staff for Headquarters Marine Corps, and he was the biggest advocate for STOVL aircraft. Think about that. They had gone from vertical lift helicopters as we entered Korea, but by the end of his career, all of a sudden now Larry Snowden was the advocate for the AV8B Harrier that we fly today. We don’t fly the same version. We fly a version that’s brand new, and we’re working our way to transitioning to the F-35B. So he was the advocate of that. He was also one of the forerunners of the F-18 Hornet, and he was there at the rollout ceremony for the F-18 Hornet when he made this comment about it. [He said,] ‘It’s the young Marine on the ground with a rifle in his hand in the designated objective area who’s going to reap

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the benefits of these new airplanes.’

“It happened at Desert Storm,” Amos added. “It happened in Iraq, and today in Afghanistan, and on and off aircraft carriers, as well.”

The audience was more familiar than most about the U.S. military, its challenges and its sacrifices, as well as its proud history and life-affirming impact.

Amos noted how pleased he was to see not only the veterans in the audience, but so many family members, as well, including children and grandchildren. He also recognized a group of wounded warriors in attendance, their families and the commanding officer of the Wounded Warrior Regiment, Col Willy Buhl (former CO of the 5th Marines). The audience applauded in appreciation of their service.

“Probably the bulk of them I’ve had the privilege, over the last couple of years, of pinning the Purple Heart on while visiting them in the hospital,” Amos said of the younger veterans. “They’re getting out and going to school ... moving on and getting on with the next part of their lives. So it’s kind of a reunion; there’s a brotherhood there.”

That sense of brotherhood was what LtGen Snowden concluded was at the heart of events such as the dinner honoring him that night, the IJAA symposia and the annual Reunion of Honor ceremonies on Iwo Jima.

“I was often asked,” Snowden said, “what was the most formidable weapon on Iwo Jima? ... My most important weapon at Iwo Jima was the spirit, determination, the patriotism, and the sheer guts of all those young 18-, 19-, 20-year-old Marines ... who every day, at the end of the day, we counted our losses and cried a little. We then said tomorrow the order is ‘Move forward.’ They never hesitated, they moved forward — knowing what the odds were and knowing how bad yesterday had been.

“So I want to say, this dinner is not about me. It’s about those other survivors here with me and all those survivors who are still around.

“Thank you so much. And to all of you, Semper Fi.”



Gen Snowden laying wreath at U.S.M.C. Memorial with Iwo Jima Vets



Rebecca Rothwell, the widow of the late Col Richard Rothwell, who commanded the Second Battalion, 24th Marines, Fourth Marine Division on Iwo Jima, and Bonie Amos, wife of Gen James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA LAW MILITARY SOCIETY HONORS IWO VETERANS

By Kim Briggeman MISSOULIAN



Iwo Jima survivors, from left, Gene Bell, (HQCO/3, Third Marine Division and IJAA Board Member), Ron Scharfe, (Fifth Amphibious Corps), and Harry Hayden (C/1/26) were honored for their service on Iwo Jima by the Law Military Society on April 29 during a ceremony at the University of Montana Law School. (Photo by Michael Gallacher/MISSOULIAN)

THEIR EYES HAVE seen the horrors of Iwo Jima, and for years it wasn't anything either Harry Hayden or Ron Scharfe felt much like talking about.

The pivotal World War II battle in February and March 1945 cost the lives of more than 6,800 Americans and 21,000 Japanese, and changed the survivors forever.

It also secured for U.S. troops a key island in the South Pacific to provide landing strips for giant B-29s on bomb runs to and from Tokyo. Five months later, the war was won.

It took another shattering event a half-century later — the death of his wife Mary in 1995 — to unleash pent-up memories for Scharfe, 86.

"When I lost the wife to cancer, then they'd come back just in flashbacks. Every two weeks, I'd have

flashbacks," he said.

Traci Scharfe was 26 at the time, and she hadn't heard her father talk about Iwo Jima.

"I knew Dad was in the war, but now I love hearing all the stories about it," she said.

"I've got memories. I mean, I think about 'em every day, really," said Hayden, 86, who grew up in Beach, N.D., but has lived for more than 30 years in Belgrade, Mont. "Your mind goes and you've got nothing to do, especially like I am in a nursing home."

Scharfe and Hayden were among four World War II veterans honored April 29 at the University of Montana law school, by the school's Law Military Society.

They were joined by Gene Bell, 87, of Kalispell,

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Mont., a fellow Marine who watched the battle on Iwo Jima from a hospital ship for 13 days, and Jerry Bell, Gene's twin brother, who wasn't at Iwo but ended up on Okinawa with the Army later in the spring of '45.

Each semester, members of the Law Military Society and the ROTC honor valiant military service with a similar commemoration, said 2ndLt Brad Jones, a second-year UM law student who served as master of ceremonies.

Few saw as much of the carnage and the triumph on Iwo Jima as Hayden. He was in on the initial landing on Feb. 19 and remained for 32 of the 36-day campaign. Of the original 42 Marines in his platoon, only three survived without being wounded or killed.

At that pace, a sprained ankle may have saved Hayden's life. He woke up on the fateful morning, climbed out of his foxhole and stepped on a rock.

"It tipped my ankle over and I went down like a shot," Hayden recalled. "I crawled back to the CO on my hands and knees, and he sent me back to the hospital to get it taped up."

Normally, he said, the medics would have doctored the ankle and kept him in sickbay for a day or two until he could walk. Then they would have sent him back to battle.

"The doc at the hospital said, 'How long you been up there?' I said, '32 days.' He said, 'Would you like to get out of here?' I said, 'You got that right.'"

Next thing Hayden knew, he was on a hospital ship headed first for Guam, then Hawaii.

Dale and Larry Hayden brought their father, who uses a wheelchair, to Missoula from Belgrade for the day's event. It wasn't until the past decade or two that he'd talk about Iwo.

"I think he just tried to forget it for all those years," said Dale.

Even now, he added, Harry has nightmares about the island. Nothing dramatic in his life occurred to prompt him to open up about his war experiences.

"I don't think so," Larry Hayden said. "He just

started realizing that there are going to be fewer and fewer of them, and if he didn't start talking, nobody would."

Even small celebrations like this one that drew 75 students, families and veterans, are important, Gene Bell said.

He's one of only three remaining members of the board of directors for the Iwo Jima Association of America who was actually there, and spends a lot of his time speaking to high schools and civic organizations. Bell said he traveled to Washington, D.C., five times last year in that capacity.

"We don't want people to forget what happened," he said.

"This was really nice. I really appreciated it," Scharfe said afterward. "You know, you never forget things. You never forget the guys you left over there. It's always in your mind."

Iwo Jima was returned to Japanese hands in 1968. Today, the tiny island (just eight square miles) is a military base. It's opened one day a year for a Reunion of Honor for both American and Japanese survivors. Hayden and Bell have made trips back to Iwo.

But Bell said the annual event, which began in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of the battle with the help Ambassador Walter Mondale, is in jeopardy.

"Japan's getting kind of hinky about it," he said. "We hope we can continue, but it doesn't look good."

Scharfe, who was on Iwo Jima during the battle for more than a week, said the cost of the Reunion of Honor has prevented him from going along.

"If I could get someone to sponsor me, one of those big outfits like Allegiance or something, I wouldn't mind going back," he said.

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RETURN TO IWO JIMA 19 FEB 1965

By John A. Butler III, IJAA Board Member



1stLt John A. Butler III and Father (Capt) Paul F. Bradley, USN, on Mount Suribachi on the 1965 visit to the island. Father Bradley served with the 28th Regiment of the Fifth Marine Division on Iwo Jima where he was wounded and received a Purple heart and the Bronze Star. Photo submitted by John A. Butler III

Editor's Note: John Butler, then a Marine first lieutenant stationed in Japan, returned to Iwo Jima just a few days short of the day his father LtCol John Butler, Battalion CO of 1/27 and Navy Cross recipient, was killed in action. Young John was five years old at the time and went on to attend the Naval Academy and serve five years in the Marine Corps.

AS FAR AS I know, the first "Return to Iwo Jima" by Veterans of the iconic battle occurred on Feb. 19, 1965, when 30 or so Iwo Jima vets still serving on active duty with the 1st Marine Air Wing in Iwakuni, Japan, and the 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa flew to Iwo Jima for a memorial service.

This is my best recollection of the event that I was privileged to participate in and walk on the hallowed ground where my father gave his life.

I was on the back side of my unaccompanied FMFPAC tour as Team Commander of the 7th Counterintelligence Team then attached to support the 1st Marine Air Wing then headquartered in Iwakuni. One Sunday in early February, the Wing Catholic Padre, Capt Paul Bradley USN, announced at mass that there would be a flight to Iwo Jima on the 19th for a memorial service and any Iwo Jima veterans were welcomed to go on the flight.

After mass I asked Father Bradley if I might be

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able to go on the trip. He said he would surely arrange for me to get a seat on the aircraft. Father Bradley knew my father had been lost during the battle for Iwo Jima.

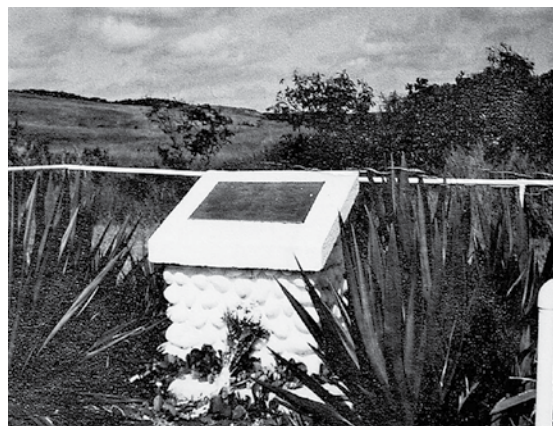
As a young priest, Father Bradley was the 28th Marines senior Catholic Padre and at the time was the current chaplain to the Fifth Marine Division Association. On Iwo Jima, he had earned quite a reputation as an upfront Padre who was always present on the battlefield, ministering to the wounded and dying. He landed with the assault troops on Green Beach and is mentioned in a number of written accounts about Iwo Jima.

During the flight, Father Bradley recalled knowing my dad, even though he was in the 27th Marines and told me that my dad was a man of strong faith and had a reputation as an outstanding leader of his battalion. Father Bradley also told me that before D-Day he told his Regimental Commander, Col "Harry the Horse" Liversedge, "When you take the mountain, I will say mass on it."

He then went on to tell me that his Assistant Chaplain, Charles Suver, beat him to it. In any case, mass was said shortly after the flag was planted. (A photo of this event was included in *Spearhead, WW2 History of the 5th Marine Division*).

As I recollect, we flew in an R4D originating in Iwakuni but stopping in Okinawa to pick up the veterans from the Third Marine Division. One of the passengers from Iwakuni was Maj Douglas T. Jacobson, who as a PFC in the Fourth Marine Division and was awarded the Medal of Honor for destroying 16 Japanese fortified positions and killing 75 Japanese soldiers in a series of one-man assaults, employing a bazooka. This action enabled his company to seize their objective. Maj Jacobson's feat was extraordinary, even among the other acts of valor attributed to the 27 Marines and sailors who were awarded the Medal of Honor during the battle of Iwo Jima.

As a young boy, I recalled seeing a photo of the major that reminded me of the villainous gunfighter played by Jack Palance in the western movie classic *Shane*. Maj Jacobson was not the Jack Palance in *Shane* but a friendly professional career Marine officer who agreed to pose for a photo I took of him at the Coast Guard Loran Station.



A monument near the site of the former Fifth Marine Division Cemetery where father Paul F. Bradley placed flowers given to him by the widow of an Imperial Japanese Army captain who was among the more than 20,000 Japanese entombed in the island. Photo submitted by John A. Butler II



Chaplain Charles F. Suver conducts Mass atop Mount Suribcahi not long after the flags had been raised by members of Easy Company, Second Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment.

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We arrived mid or late morning and were met by a delegation of Coast Guardsmen then operating the Loran Station. Unfortunately, my memory falls short, and I have no worthy details like who was there and what speeches were made. We did have a brief memorial service held at the site of the old Fifth Marine Division Cemetery where Father Bradley left some flowers at the base of the monument with the inscription, "That these men did not die in vain." The flowers, which can be seen at the base of the monument in the photo, were given to Father Bradley by the widow of an Imperial Japanese Army captain, who was among the 20,000 Japanese entombed on the island.

This kindly act by Father Bradley to accommodate the widow's wishes preceded much of which was to follow in the process of holding joint reunions which would later grow into the Joint Reunions of Honor events celebrated annually since 1995. The better-known event preceding the current reunions was the 1985 event reported by Gen Jarvis Lynch.

In the 1965 trip, there was no joint memorial service that I can recall, but Father Bradley did mention that a Buddhist monk was conducting a separate memorial for the lost Japanese. Most likely this was the Rev Tsuenzo Wachi who, following the war, took off his Imperial Japanese Navy uniform and donned the robes of a Buddhist monk. Rev Wachi dedicated his life to those lost on Iwo Jima and later became an honorary chaplain of the Fourth Marine Division Association and a friend to many Marine officers. I regularly correspond with his daughter Rosa Ogawa, who took up his cause and is a friend to many in the IJAA.

At the Loran Station, I took a photo of Maj Jacobson, posing with a Japanese weapon collected by the Coast Guard, who spent much of their spare time exploring the Island and collecting discarded weapons.

After visiting the Coast Guard station and a quick lunch, we proceeded to Mt Suribachi. I recall such a strong emotion looking over the landing beaches where my dad and his

battalion, along with the other seven assault battalions of the Fifth & Fourth Marine Division stormed ashore at H-Hour just 20 years earlier.

There was no time for further exploration and walking the beaches. We returned to the airstrip and flew back to Iwakini via Okinawa. Forty years later, I returned to Iwo Jima with my brother Clint and 450 others with the Military History Tours (MHT) annual trek to the Reunion of Honor for the 60th Anniversary of the Iwo Jima campaign.

On that trip, Col John Ripley took my brother and me to the spot where my father had been killed. I took notes throughout the trip and wrote a trip report for my family and friends.

Anything remiss in this recollection is attributed to fading memories and a failure to take and preserve notes. But for sure I had strong emotional memories and did recall a few of the highlights,

It was an event to never forget and was one of the first "Return to Iwo Jima" trips by Iwo Jima veterans.



Maj Douglas T. Jacobson, who as a PFC in the Fourth Marine Division in 1945, was one of the 27 Marines and sailors awarded the Medal of Honor for action on Iwo Jima, at Loran Station during the 1965 return to Iwo Jima. Using a bazooka, Maj Jacobson destroyed several Japanese fortified positions and Japanese soldiers in a series of one-man assaults, enabling his company to seize its objective.



*The Fifth Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima where Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn gave his eulogy.
(USMC photo)*

ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTED COPY OF FAMED EULOGY INSPIRES AWE

I only saw my dad (Fio Lopardo, H/3/28) cry twice. Both concerned events when he was a Fifth Division Marine combat officer during the battle of Iwo Jima. One occasion was when he told how he had to order a young teenager (Cpl Larkin) to go on what turned out to be a suicide mission. The other occasion was toward the end of his life when we were watching a documentary on Iwo Jima that showed the dedication of the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo. He just lost it and couldn't continue watching.

This cemetery was dedicated with a speech given on March 21, 1945, (while the battle still raged) by a rabbi, Chaplain Roland B. Gittelsohn. It is the greatest speech I have ever heard/read, by anybody, on any topic. "Theirs is the highest and purest democracy." Wow.

It is understandably quite famous, and readily available on the Internet and in history books. Last night, however, something amazing happened.

My friends, Steve and Tom Harnsberger (whose father, Hutch, was with my dad on Iwo) showed me an original copy of the speech, handed out when their dad was at the dedication on 3/21/45. Seeing an original, with its typos and stains, made the speech even more real, and even more eloquent and prayerful.

To me, it was like holding and reading the original envelope where Lincoln scratched the Gettysburg Address. I am still awed by it, which is why I could not resist sending a copy to all of you.

I hope it is as meaningful to you as it is to me.

*– Steve Lopardo
Fallbrook, Calif.*

Chap. Gittelsohn's
Iwo Mem. Address
3-21-45
ORIGINAL

Delivered 21 March 1945
on Iwo Jima, Navy Lt. ~~John~~ *Stamper*
USNR
MEMORIAL ADDRESS - FIFTH MARINE DIVISION
CEMETERY

- attended this
Memorial Service
on Iwo Jima,
3-21-45,
(2 PP)

CHAPLAIN ROLAND B. GITTELSON
Hdq. Co. Hdq. Bn.
Fifth Marine Division
c/o Fleet Post office
San Francisco, California

This is perhaps the grimmest, and surely the holiest task we have faced since D-day. Here before us lie the bodies of comrades and friends. Men who until yesterday or last week laughed with us, joked with us, trained with us. Men who were on the same ships with us, and went over the sides with us as we prepared to hit the beaches of this island. Men who fought with us and feared with us. Somewhere in this plot of ground there may lie the man who could have discovered the cure for cancer. Under one of these Christian crosses, or beneath a Jewish Star of David, there may rest now a man who was destined to be a great prophet, -- to find the way, perhaps, for all to live in plenty, with poverty and hardship for none. Now they lie here silently in this sacred soil, and we gather to consecrate this earth in their memory.

It is not easy to do so. Some of us have buried our closest friends here. We saw these men killed before our very eyes. Any one of us might have died in their places. Indeed, some of us are alive and breathing at this very moment only because men who lie here beneath us had the courage and strength to give their lives for ours. To speak in memory of such men as these is not easy. Of them too can it be said with utter truth: "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here. It can never forget what they did here."

No, our poor power of speech can add nothing to what these men and the other dead of our Division who are not here have already done. All that we even hope to do is follow their example. To show the same selfless courage in peace that they did in war. To swear that by the grace of God and the stubborn strength and power of human will, their sons and ours shall never suffer these pains again. These men have done their job well. They have paid the ghastly price of freedom. If that freedom be once again lost, as it was after the last war, the unforgivable blame will be ours, not theirs. So it is we the living who are here to be dedicated and consecrated.

We dedicate ourselves, first, to live together in peace the way they fought and are buried in this war. Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding, and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, negroes and whites, rich men and poor, --together. Here are Protestants, Catholics and Jews, --together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudices. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS - FIFTH MARINE DIVISION CEMETERY (Cont'd)

Any man among us the living who fails to understand that will thereby betray those who lie here dead. Whoever of us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, makes of this ceremony and of the bloody sacrifice it commemorates, an empty, hollow mockery. To this, then, as our solemn, sacred duty, do we the living now dedicate ourselves:--to the right of Protestants, Catholics and Jews, of white men and negroes alike, to enjoy the democracy for which all of them have here paid the price.

To one thing more do we consecrate ourselves in memory of those who sleep beneath these crosses and stars. We shall not foolishly suppose, as did the last generation of Americas' fighting men, that victory on the battlefield will automatically guarantee the triumph of democracy at home. This war, with all its frightful heartache and suffering, is but the beginning of our generation's struggle for democracy. When the last battle has been won, there will be those at home, as there were last time, who will want us to turn our backs in selfish isolation on the rest of organized humanity, and thus to sabotage the very peace for which we fight. We promise you who lie here: we will not do that! We will join hands with Britain, China, Russia in peace, even as we have in war, to build the kind of world for which you died.

When the last shot has been fired, there will still be those whose eyes are turned backward, not forward, who will be satisfied with those wide extremes of poverty and wealth in which the seeds of another war can breed. We promise you, our departed comrades: this too we will not permit. This war has been fought by the common man; its fruits of peace must be enjoyed by the common man! We promise, by all that is sacred and holy, that your sons the sons of miners and millers, the sons of farmers and workers, will inherit from your death the right to a living that is decent and secure.

When the final cross has been placed in the last cemetery, once again there will be those to whom profit is more important than peace, who will insist with the voice of sweet reasonableness and appeasement that it is better to trade with the enemies of mankind than, by crushing them, to lose their profit. To you who sleep here silently, we give our promise: we will not listen! We will not forget that some of you were burnt with oil that came from American wells, that many of you were killed by shells fashioned from American steel. We promise that when once again men seek profit at your expense, we shall remember how you looked when we placed you reverently, lovingly, in the ground.

Thus do we memorialize those who, having ceased living with us, now live within us. Thus do we consecrate ourselves the living to carry on the struggle they began. Too much blood has gone into this soil for us to let it lie barren. Too much pain and heartache have fertilized the earth on which we stand. We here solemnly swear: this shall not be in vain! Out of this, and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this, will come--we promise--the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere.

Amen.

THE FIRST AMERICAN – JAPANESE IWO JIMA REUNION CEREMONY 19 FEBRUARY 1985

By MajGen Jarvis Lynch, USMC (Ret.)



(Left to Right) An unidentified man who may have been a member of a group searching for remains of Japanese soldiers, the late Rev. Tsuenzo Wachi, former Captain, Imperial Japanese Navy, and Lt Jon Allen, Commanding Officer, US Coast Guard LORAN Station Iwo Jima, Oct 1984 – Oct 1985. (Photo submitted by Jon Allen)

IT WAS AN early December day of 1984. The Commandant of the Marine Corps was Gen P.X. Kelley and the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, was the late LtGen C. G. Cooper. I, Gen Cooper's chief of staff, was about to be handed any post-WWII Marine's thrill

of a lifetime — the chance to visit Iwo Jima. Gen Kelley phoned Gen Cooper from Washington to tell him that the Japanese government had agreed to hold a joint U.S.–Japanese ceremony commemorating the Battle of Iwo Jima. The ceremony would be the first

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joint Japanese–American ceremony conducted on any of WWII's Pacific islands and it would be held on 19 February 1985, D-Day plus 40 years.

The ceremony guests would be comprised of veterans of the battle, families of veterans, or widows and their family members. Gen Kelley had phoned Gen Cooper to tell him that Gen Cooper would represent the U.S. at the ceremony and that there would be a conference on Iwo Jima later in December. Gen Cooper was asked to send a representative to the conference. As I recall, the commandant stressed the

point that the Japanese government was concerned that the ceremony might become a celebration of war rather than a memorial to those who fought there and the subsequent peace between the two nations.

The door between Gen Cooper's office and mine had been open throughout, and I had heard Gen Cooper's side of the conversation. After the phone call ended, Gen Cooper thought it over for a few minutes and then called me into his office.

The upshot was that LtCol Jim Pendergast, the FMFPAC Public Affairs Officer (PAO), and I were to

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The late LtGen C.G. Cooper, then Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, poses with Lt Jon Allen on his right and senior members of JMSDF officers stationed on the island, and the senior JASDF officer on either side at the Feb. 19, 1985, Reunion of Honor. Then Maj Jarvis Lynch was Gen Cooper's chief of staff. (Photo submitted by Jon Allen)



The dedication of the Reunion of Honor monument (which Arnold Shapiro had raised the money for and written the words prior to the Feb.19, 1985 reunion) took place on Oct. 23 1984. The late Rev. Tsuenzo Wachi is kneeling in front of the monument. On the left is the senior JMSDF officers stationed on the island, next are the senior JASDF officers, followed by the US Coast Guard officers, and then the two construction company workers who installed the monument. ((Photo Submitted by Jon Allen)

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go to Iwo Jima. The guidance was easily understood — we were to be as accommodating as possible and above all, the ceremony was to be a memorial to those of both sides who had fought there and a celebration of the peace and cooperation between Japan and America that had prevailed since the war.

A week or so later found us in Tokyo on our way to Yakota AFB to board a Marine C-9 that would fly us to Iwo. We shared the aircraft with the late Maj Bob Hoskins, USMC (Ret) who, as a Company G/Sgt in the Fourth Marine Division, had landed on Iwo

Jima in the early waves. In turn, Maj Hoskins had in tow the late Rev. Tsuenzo Wachi, former Captain, Imperial Japanese Navy. From early 1944 until the Imperial Army took responsibility for the defense of Iwo Jima late that year, then CDR Wachi had been the commanding officer of the Japanese defenses on Iwo. After the war, he had gone on to become a Buddhist priest and subsequently also an honorary chaplain of the Fourth Marine Division Association. Capt Wachi, who spoke excellent English, was accompanied by his stonemason, an artisan who

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carved many of the Japanese monuments on Iwo Jima.

The Japanese Self Defense Force now has an air station on Iwo. The single runway covers parts of what had been Motoyama One and Motoyama Two. The station is used for training on a rotational basis by Air Self Defense Forces. They could make all of the noise they wanted without disturbing anybody except the U.S. Coast Guardsmen at the Coast Guard Loran Station located on the northern part of the island. The station is now a thing of the past.

The Marines flying our C-9 generously circled the island once before landing.

When the aircraft taxied to a stop at what passed for the air station's operations building, we quickly deplaned. My first look was toward Mount Suribachi. It reminded me of a jagged tooth, a very dangerous jagged tooth. Looking at its dominance of the island, my first thought was, "How in hell did they do it?"

We moved quickly to the meeting place, a room in the operations building. The meeting was quite formal. LtCol Pendergast and I sat on one side of the rectangular conference table, a Japanese Naval Self Defense Force captain and his interpreter sat opposite. Rev. Wachi sat at one end. The other was unoccupied.

The ceremony negotiations went quickly. Wachi, who was clearly the senior Japanese representative, maintained a blank expression and said nothing. The ceremony was to be held at the monument purchased by the John Wayne family and had identical inscriptions in Japanese on the landward side and English on the seaward side.

The impressive monument was located inland on what had been the boundary between the Fourth and Fifth Marine Divisions during the assault phase. We agreed on: the short sleeve garrison uniform; ribbons; the overseas cover; and no serving of alcohol. Surprisingly, the Japanese insisted that there be no mingling of Japanese and Americans, a point to which we agreed.

Finally, the size of each nation's band was agreed

to be no more than 25 members. The FMFPAC band was roughly twice that size and since it would be more than unfair to force half or so of the Marines to miss a trip to Iwo Jima, nothing was said about this part of the agreement when we returned to Hawaii. There were no post-ceremony Japanese complaints about the size of our band.

After the meeting, Rev. Wachi took LtCol Pendergast, a few others and me on a tour of the island. To be toured on Iwo Jima by the man who had been responsible for its defense for months was more than a rare and wonderful experience.

I was told that the ceremony was perfection. It was no particular surprise when the rule against American-Japanese fraternization was immediately broken. The Japanese ladies, most of them widows of the island's defenders, went to the American ladies and welcomed them to Japan. They freely mingled the rest of the day.

On the other hand, many were surprised when, after the ceremony, alcohol was available to all. Word had it that Rev. Wachi was responsible for the alcohol (flown to Iwo on a Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force aircraft). When I heard about the breakdown of the non-fraternization rule, I thought that it was Wachi who told the Japanese ladies how one breaks regulations that make no sense. He was still in command.

For months after the visit, I dreamt about Iwo Jima ... dominant Suribachi and the defenses we saw and the ones we didn't see, including the tunnels. Yes, I understand how the Marines did it ... technically. But no, I still don't really understand it. One would have had to have been there and known them. "Uncommon valor" was indeed a "Common Virtue."

DEATH MASK OF IWO FLAG-RAISER LAID TO REST

Cast of Iwo Jima icon's face handed over to Ariz. family 54 years after his death

Dennis Wagner

WHEN IRA HAYES was alive, his image was captured in one of the most famous battle photographs ever taken — the WWII picture of Marines raising the flag over Iwo Jima.

Now, more than a half-century later, it turns out that Hayes' image also was captured in death — secretly cast in plaster while he lay in a Phoenix mortuary awaiting burial.

The heroic and tragic story of Hayes, a Pima Indian from Bapchule, AZ, has been depicted in books, Hollywood films and popular music. The death mask, discovered a few years ago by Hayes' family, adds one more chapter to the historic odyssey, a postscript with its own controversy and cultural questions.

Kenneth Hayes received his brother's final impression as a donation from the Gilbert Ortega Museum Gallery in Scottsdale, AZ, where the mask had been on display for years, unbeknownst to relatives. Family members laid the object to rest last week on the Gila River Reservation where Hayes was born and died. The surviving relatives say the burial allows Hayes' spirit to go free into the next world.

The death mask itself represents something of a mystery, from its unauthorized creation to its public display.

A celebrity emerges, then dies. Amid the final battles of WWII, Cpl Ira Hamilton Hayes and five other Marines were frozen in time by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal as they raised the Stars and Stripes.

The 1945 picture, which came to symbolize American courage and patriotism, transformed a troubled Indian kid from Bapchule into an unwilling national celebrity. Hayes was one of only 27 members of a company of 250 to survive the battle on Mount Suribachi. In the aftermath, President Harry Truman declared him a hero and ordered him back to the States to join a tour raising money through the sale of war bonds.

The 23-year-old hated being a center of attention and

considered his fallen comrades to be the true heroes, according to biographer S.D. Nelson, who wrote, *Quiet Hero: The Ira Hayes Story*. After an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Hayes returned to his home in the poverty-stricken Gila River Indian Community, seeking solitude and anonymity in a bottle.

Despite Hayes' misgivings, a mountain peak, a school and an American Legion post were named for him. He appeared as himself in a 1949 John Wayne film. More recently, he was portrayed in Clint Eastwood's 2006 movie, *Flags of Our Fathers*, based on the book about Iwo Jima by James Bradley and Ron Powers.

Ten years after the war, at age 32, Hayes' body was found lying in a small creek. He had died of exposure after getting into a drunken fight during a poker game.

A ballad written by Peter LaFarge and popularized by Johnny Cash, among others, contains this melancholy refrain:

Call him drunken Ira Hayes
He won't answer anymore
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian
Nor the Marine that went to war.

According to a biography on the website of Arlington National Cemetery, where Hayes is buried, his memorial ceremony in Phoenix was Arizona's largest at the time.

But only a handful of people knew what occurred the night before in the mortuary.

History of the mask unmasked. A lump of linen is placed atop a glass display case at Gilbert Ortega Museum Gallery in Scottsdale, AZ. Larry Cook, Ira Hayes' grand nephew, unwraps the package to reveal the mask, emphasizing that no photographs are allowed. Cook's wife, Sharon, studies the visage, comparing it to pictures of the Marine. "In Pima culture, when you pass on, everything you own is supposed to go with you," she says. "They say because of this, Ira's body was never sent to rest. It's still lingering."

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Gilbert Ortega Jr. produces a one-page document explaining the history of the mask. It was written and notarized in 1986 by Shirley Nelson, now living in Yuma. It says a Phoenix artist named Hortense Johnson went to the funeral parlor and made a cast of Hayes' face to preserve history. The next morning, Johnson visited the Nelsons home still splashed with plaster: "Hortense said Ira Hayes was to be buried that day and she just could not let this happen without making a death mask. It was her intent to make a bust of Ira." Johnson died of cancer without making a sculpture.

In a telephone interview, Nelson continues the story, explaining that she and her mother received the mask as a gift from Johnson's grieving husband. "He was going to throw it out," she recalls. "My mom and I were the only people who knew what it was, so he gave it to us."

When Nelson's mother died in 1959, Nelson inherited Ira's image. There was always a sense of reverence, she adds, an appreciation of its importance. "We knew that it was history, and we didn't want history lost. ... Ira lived in our house for many years."

Nelson says the mask was kept in a cupboard because her Navajo foster child and his Native American friends were afraid of it. "They would come to the door and ask, 'Is Ira put away?'" she recalls.

In the early 1980s, while living in Snowflake, AZ, Nelson befriended a Navajo artist named Robert Yellowhair, who expressed an interest in making a sculpture of Hayes for the U.S.M.C. Nelson says she gave the mask to Yellowhair, who picks up the story in a separate interview.

Yellowhair says he viewed the mask as a valuable collector's item and never created a monument. Around 1995, he took the mask to Gilbert Ortega Sr., owner of Native American art and jewelry stores. Details of their arrangement are unclear. Yellowhair, who recalls giving the mask to Ortega on consignment, claims he is still its rightful owner, though he lacks documentation. Gilbert Ortega

Sr. died six years ago. Ortega Jr., now president of the galleries, says his father never took objects on consignment and the mask was always displayed with a sign declaring, "Not for Sale."

Ortega Jr. says there were offers over the years, but his father rejected every one. "My dad always prided himself in the mask," Ortega Jr. adds. "There's no way to put a value on something like that. The value is from the heart more than money."

Family breaks mask, buries it. In 1999, the story shifts back to the Gila reservation. According to tribal records, cultural-preservation officers learned of the death mask on display in Scottsdale and expressed concern but did nothing.

A decade elapsed before tribal officials raised the issue again, and this time, word reached family members. Larry Cook says he was taken aback when he visited the gallery. There is no such thing as a death mask in Pima culture, he adds, because key possessions should go with the deceased into the next world. Cook and his great uncle, Kenneth Hayes, approached Ortega Jr., who agreed to donate the mask to Ira's descendants.

"I believe it still has the spirit in there, and that's what led the family here," Ortega Jr. explains. "I felt my dad would donate it, give it back to the family, so I decided to do the same."

"Ira's spirit is not totally rested," Cook agrees. "We thank Mr. Ortega, too, for seeing in his heart to give the mask back."

Family members returned to the Gila reservation a few hours later. According to Sharon Cook, they gathered for a private ceremony near the graves of Hayes' mother and father. The mask was broken into bits and buried. Cook says they left no marker, no monument, so that a legend may rest undisturbed.

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WILLIAM DOUGLAS “BILL” LANSFORD — 1922-2013

By Ray Elliott

LIKE MANY MARINES who landed on Iwo Jima with the Fifth Marine Division on February 19, 1945, Bill Lansford had already served in other campaigns in the Pacific Theater before reporting to Camp Pendleton when the division first started forming in late 1943.

The official date of activation was Jan. 21, 1944, although combat veterans (like Bill) and necessary equipment had been streaming into Camp Pendleton weeks before, and the division's headquarters battalion had been operating since the first of December.

Bill enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940 and served with the First Provisional Marine Brigade in Iceland, then joined the famed Carlson's Raider Battalion in the early days of the Pacific Campaign — including Midway in May 1942, Guadalcanal in November and December, taking part in the battalion's "long patrol" and finally Bougainville in November 1943, after which the Raiders were disbanded.

With more than three years overseas and several campaigns under his belt, Sgt Lansford was sent back to the States and went home on leave to East Los Angeles where he was born in 1922 to a Scots-Irish/English father and a Mexican mother. After only a few days, Bill told his mother he had to report early and headed to Camp Pendleton before Christmas 1943.

"I didn't have to report early at all," Bill told me during a visit at his Playa del Rey, CA, home in 2010. "But I'd been overseas and gone so long I just couldn't stand civilian life."

The first man he saw when he arrived at Camp Pendleton was "Manila John" Basilone, who had also fought on Guadalcanal and was awarded the Medal of Honor for holding off a Japanese assault. Both men were later assigned to 1/27 and served under First Battalion commander LtCol John Butler on Iwo Jima and landed on Red Beach One early on February 19, 1945.

"Basilone got hit," Lansford said he heard somebody

holler that morning. "I went over to see him about 15 minutes later and saw him lying there, dead."

Bill survived and went on to serve in the Occupation of Japan before being discharged in 1946. Then, like many other World War II veterans, he attended college under the G.I. Bill and later worked as a reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News. When the Korean War came along, he served as an Army officer, a radio writer for Armed Forces Radio and received a Bronze Star for his reporting of the ten-day Battle of White Horse Mountain in October 1952, a crucial turning point in the war.

After Korea, Lansford started free lancing for a number of magazines, writing several non-fiction books and teleplays for several American television series.

I was familiar with his 1965 book, *Poncho Villa*, more for the 1968 movie based on the book, (*Villa Rides*, starring Yul Brynner) than I was with his other work. Good book, I told him.

"Yeah, but a terrible movie," he said, "It paid for this place, though."

What did you write for television? I asked him.

"Oh, a number of things," he said. "Probably nothing you've ever heard of...*Bonanza*," mentioning one of my long-time favorite TV series first, then *Wagon Train*, *The Rookies*, *Starsky and Hutch*, *CHiPs* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

He also wrote the screenplays for made-for-TV movies depicting Jesse James (*The Intruders*) and Charles Whitman (*The Deadly Tower*). And he wrote and directed the film *Adios, East Los*.

Shortly before his death, Bill had written a two-part series, *Clyde Thomason: The Forgotten Hero*, that his widow, Ruth, and "Leatherneck" editor Walt Ford advised me later would be published in the upcoming August and September issues.

Bill chose *The Forgotten Hero* as the title for the two-

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part series, Ford said, because it is often overlooked that Sgt Thomason earned the first Medal of Honor by an enlisted Marine in World War II, not Basilone, as is often believed and reported. Thomason received the MOH, posthumously, for the August 17, 1942, assault with the Carlson Raiders on Butaritari Island on Makin Atoll.

Basilone's MOH came on Oct. 24, in the furious battle for Henderson Field during an attack over four days by 3000 Japanese from the Sendai Division.

"Bill really had a gift when telling a tale," Ford said. "His writings bring history to life and his last article truly stands out as a tribute to his talents while reminding Marines of another piece of their heritage."

Before he died, Bill also completed a novel, *The Wind and the Ships*, based on the first Kamikaze attack. The soon-to-be-published novel "tells the story of the men who formed Kamikaze Corps and the men who commanded the American ships in one of the war's most ferocious air/sea engagements."

SEEKING PAST REUNION OF HONOR MEMORIES AND PHOTOS

The Iwo Jima Association of America is documenting the history of the Reunion of Honor ceremonies on Iwo Jima since the first was held in 1985. Everyone is encouraged to share personal remembrances and/or photos from any of the past events (but especially from 1985).

Please send to IJAA Communications Director Ray Elliott, 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802, or email rayelliott23@att.net.



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Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting
14 February, 2013
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 1410 on Thursday, 14 February, 2013, in Arlington, Virginia, by Chairman LtGen Hank Stackpole.

II. Roll Call

Present: Emeritus LtGen Larry Snowden, Chairman LtGen Hank Stackpole, President LtGen Norman Smith, Executive Vice President Col. Warren Wiedhahn, Operations Director Col. Gary Anderson, Executive Director Shayne Jarosz, Communications Director Ray Elliott, Director Bonnie Haynes, Director Bill Rockey, Director Ira Rigger, Director John Butler, Director Gene Bell, Acting Recording Secretary Nancy Brown.

Absent: Treasurer Doug Meny, Director Ivan Hammond, Director Sgt. Major Gene Overstreet.

III. Opening Remarks

President LtGen Norman Smith welcomed everyone and introduced Col. Gary Anderson as the newly hired Operations Director at IJAA.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The 16 June, 2012, Minutes were read and a motion was made by Bonnie Haynes to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by the Board.

V. Reports

Treasurer's Report - On behalf of Doug Meny, Shayne Jarosz presented the Treasurer's Report for Calendar Year 2012 and 2013 Year-to-Date. LtGen Hank Stackpole made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and passed by the Board.

2013 Reunion and Symposium:

- Shayne Jarosz reported that everything is on schedule and ready to go for the 68th Anniversary Reunion and Symposium.
- Col. Gary Anderson reported that a luncheon with the Japanese Ambassador has been added to the Symposium agenda.
- 2013 Reunion of Honor - Warren Wiedhahn reported that the March 2013 "Reunion of Honor" tour is on schedule.

- Black Sands - Ray Elliott reported that in order for the new edition of The Black Sands to be printed in June, he needs input from people and assistance with writing articles.

VI. Old Business

Warren Wiedhahn proposed the expansion of the number of IJAA Board of Directors. John Butler made a motion to expand the Board of Directors from 11 to 15. The motion was seconded and passed by the Board.

LtGen Hank Stackpole appointed John Butler, Bill Rockey and Ira Rigger to form a committee to look into possible nominees to join the Board.

- Fundraising, raffles and sponsors were discussed. Silent auctions and seminars were mentioned and there was talk about reaching out to local establishments regarding having a dinner followed by a band with dancing.
- In an effort to expand membership, several Board members are involved in speaking engagements to various organizations and will continue to do so. It was noted that it is important to reach out to young people in the community for more involvement.
- Ira Rigger made a motion to renew the management contract with Military Historical Tours. The motion was seconded and passed by the Board.
- John Butler made a motion to re-elect the current IJAA Officers and Board Members.

VII. New Business

- Shayne Jarosz proposed that the Board look into different options regarding registration for the 69th Anniversary Reunion and Symposium in 2014 to cut down on costs. Bonnie Haynes made a motion that Shayne Jarosz research various options and report back to the Board.
- LtGen Hank Stackpole made a motion that IJAA support the recognition of Joe Rosenthal by having a plaque placed in the Marine Corp. Museum. The motion was seconded and passed by the Board.

VIII. Adjournment

LtGen Hank Stackpole made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 1647.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Rea Brown
Acting Recording Secretary

**IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
TOUR DESCRIPTIONS**

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS COMMEMORATION and DEDICATION

Friday, February 14

Opened to the public on 13 November 2006, the National Museum of the Marine Corps is a lasting tribute to U.S. Marines — past, present, and future. Situated on a 135-acre site adjacent to the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia, the Museum's soaring design evokes the image of the flag-raisers of Iwo Jima and beckons visitors to its 118,000-square-foot structure. World-class interactive exhibits using the most innovative technology will surround visitors with irreplaceable artifacts and immerse them in the sights and sounds of Marines in action. Enjoy lunch on your own in the Mess Hall or 18th Century Tun Tavern. Following the museum, a stop will be made at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, for a wreath laying ceremony.

Note: You will be required to pass through a metal detector before entering the museum.

There is a lot of walking, so please wear comfortable shoes.

8:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at the hotel

\$35/Person includes transportation. Lunch on your own.

**HOME OF THE COMMANDANT
(LADIES ONLY)**

Saturday, February 15

Still used for its original purpose, the Home of the Commandant has been home to all but the first two commandants, and is said to be the oldest, continuously occupied public building in Washington, D.C. When first built, the Georgian-Federalist style house measured 25 by 32 feet. It contained four large rooms and a central hallway on each floor, a kitchen in the basement and servant's quarters in the attic. Renovations and additions, which began in 1836, have expanded the house to 15,000 square feet including 30 rooms, not counting closets or baths. The decor has always been dictated by the personal tastes of each commandant and his family.

9:30am board bus, 11:30am back at the hotel

This is a no cost tour, but you must indicate the number of ladies attending on your registration form.

Driver gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.

The museum trip requires a minimum of thirty-five people.

Register online and pay by credit card!

www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2014

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.



IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
REUNION & SYMPOSIUM
FEBRUARY 13-16, 2014
ARLINGTON AND QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, 13 February

2:00pm—6:00pm Reunion Registration Open

6:00pm—8:00pm Welcome Reception

Friday, 14 February

7:30am—8:00am Reunion Registration Open

8:30am—4:30pm National Museum of the Marine Corps
Commemoration & Dedication invited GOH

Gen John Paxton, 33rd ACMC

8:30am Board Bus for National Museum of the Marine Corps

2:30pm Board Bus for Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Marine
Corps War Memorial

5:00pm—6:00pm Reunion Registration Open

6:00pm—8:00pm No Host Cocktail Reception and "Show & Tell"

Saturday, 15 February

8:30am—3:30pm Symposium and Panel Discussion

9:30am—11:30am Ladies Tour of the Commandant of the Marine
Corps Home at Marine Barracks 8th & I

12:00pm—1:00pm Lunch briefing by a **Senior Marine Representative**

5:00pm—6:00pm Cash Bar Reception

6:00pm—11:00pm Official Banquet invited GOH **Gen Jim Amos,**
35th Commandant of the Marine Corps

Sunday, 16 February

Farewells and Departures

P.O. Box 680 Quantico, VA 22134

703-212-8128 Fax: 703-590-1292

Director@lwojimaassociation.org

www.lwojimaassociation.org



IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA REUNION 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/ijaa2014. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **January 15, 2014**. 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: IJAA

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ New ☐ Revision/Addition ☐

CUT-OFF DATE IS 1/15/14	Price Per	# of People	Total
TOURS			
FRIDAY: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS	\$ 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	\$ 38		\$
SATURDAY: BANQUET (Please select your entrée below)			
Sliced London Broil	\$ 48		\$
Chicken Piccata	\$ 48		\$
Mandatory Per Person Registration Fee	\$ 15		\$
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/ijaa2014

SHERATON PENTAGON CITY HOTEL (formerly Sheraton National) – ARLINGTON, VA
Please call and mention the IJAA Reunion (888) 627-8210 / (703) 521-1900

The Sheraton Pentagon City 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 Pentagon City 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) 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 14-17, 2013

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: \$115 + tax (currently 10%)

CUT OFF DATE: 1/15/13; Reservations received after this date will be processed on a space available basis, at 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 Pentagon City Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204 Attn: Reservations or make Online reservations: <http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/meetings/index.html?propertyID=829> & Use Code #12000

IJAA Symposium & Reunion Register online and pay by credit card!**www.afr-reg.com/ijaa2014****AFR CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.**

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Century Tun Tavern. Following the museum, a stop will be made at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, for a wreath laying ceremony.

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IWO JIMA 70TH ANNIVERSARY

19 February, 2015

In preparation for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima we are asking for information on all Iwo Jima Veterans and Legacy family members. Please fill out the below form so that we are able to assemble a commemorative log of all the battle veterans. The purpose of the log is for our members to be able to communicate with surviving members of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions and supporting units; supporting naval ship and squadron crews; and Army personnel to perpetuate the legacy of those men who fought and in some cases paid the ultimate price during the conflict. In addition, this information will be used to ensure that all Iwo Jima Veterans and legacy family members will be invited to the historic 70th Anniversary Celebration in Washington D.C. Please pass to all Iwo Jima Veterans.

Iwo Jima Veteran's Name _____

Service: USMC _____ US Navy _____ US Army _____ US Coast Guard _____

Unit/Ship _____

Address _____

Phone (optional) _____

If Immemorial (Year Passed) _____

Legacy Family Member _____

Address _____

Phone (optional) _____

e-mail (optional) _____



Mail to: IJAA, PO Box 680 Quantico, VA 22134



PO Box 680, Quantico, VA, 22134

www.IwoJimaAssociation.org

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Iwo Jima Association of America 2013 Summer Newsletter

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



69TH IWO JIMA "REUNION OF HONOR" 14-21 MAR 2014

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) 69th "Reunion of Honor", coordinated by the IJAA's travel partner MHT will be headquartered at the Outrigger Resort Hotel on Guam's Tumon Bay. A chartered United Airline jet

will take the veterans, their families, educators, and historians back to the "Black Sands" and the very moving joint commemoration ceremony for the campaign's fallen warriors. There will be an Iwo Jima Battle Symposium & Banquet on Guam before our return. Please join us on the "Black Sands" for a stirring reunion with brethren & family.



MILITARYTM
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC
★★★★★

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WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285
703-590-1295 * MHTOURS@MILTLOURS.COM
WWW.MILTLOURS.COM