



The Black Sands

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From the Executive Director



Wow, it's hard to believe that this is the eighth year as your executive director. Over the last eight years we have had a program in February that includes visits to the National Museum of the Marine Corps (Love that Police Escort!) over the last two years we have held a memorial service at Marine Barracks 8th&I and of course we have the symposium on Saturday morning followed by our big band dinner.

I assure you that we as your administrative team and Board of Directors have heard your complaints about the weather! We have almost been snowed out twice, and every year the icy conditions give me a heart attack as we walk toward the Iwo Jima Monument. As a result of the wintery conditions the board of directors voted to have Art Sifuentes and myself explore the possibility of joining the IJAA members on the West coast. After many phone calls and back and forth conversations with the West Coast, we have signed a contract with the Grand Pacific Palisades Resort in Carlsbad California. In the coming weeks we will be sending you information on the itinerary which includes tours of Camp Pendleton and MCRD San Diego! We are excited to be able to join in with the established program in California and still provide a quality enjoyable and educational program which will honor our Iwo Jima Veterans in a warm sunny climate where we aren't worried about Ice!

Shayne A. Jarosz
Executive Director

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Iwo Jima 71th Anniversary Reunion of Honor - March 19, 2016

By Mark W. Stevens



A view of the landing beaches from Mt. Suribachi

This years Reunion of Honor (ROH) was attended by six veterans from the battle of Iwo Jima. For each one of these veterans, their return carried very different sentiments. Emotions, that for someone who had not been there to experience the horror and turmoil of the battle, would be incomprehensible.



Pictured above, from L-R are Al Eutsey, Jr., Gene Bell, Carl DeHaven, Jack Lazere, George Catellona and Jerry Yellin

These men are returning to honor their fellow comrades who were wounded or killed on this

desolate island. These veterans were the lucky ones who got to return home. The battle of Iwo Jima was the only battle in the Pacific that the U.S. fought, where our casualties were greater than the enemies. The U.S. suffered 26,038 casualties, of which 6,821 were fatal. A total of approximately 21,000 Japanese troops were defending the island. The exact total Japanese casualties will probably never be known, as many as 3,000+ are possibly still entombed there. Of the 21,000 Japanese, only 216 were taken prisoner.



Our day starts out in the early morning hours where we gather in the hotel lobby so that we can be shuttled to the airport for our flight to Iwo Jima which is set to leave at 8:00 am.

This year there is but one 737 to take us to the island. The ranks of the veterans are quickly diminishing, which makes each of these trips that much more meaningful. It won't be to far off in the future that only family and friends will be making this journey.

After a pleasant two hour flight, Iwo Jima appears out of our windows. It is a beautiful day and the island is clearly visible as we land.



The Young Marines are the first to get off the aircraft so that they can assist the veterans. Next the veterans exit the plane. It is now around 10:30 am Guam time. There is no glory, no bravado in their return, just silent reflections by these men. You can see it in their faces as each one steps off of the plane. It is almost a painful expression. So many of their friends lost their lives here.



Each of the Veterans and every guest were greeted by Lt Gen Lawrence D. Nicholson, CG, III MEF, USMC as they stepped off of the plane.

The III MEF (III Marine Expeditionary Force), plays a vital role in the Reunion of Honor. In my opinion, they do not get enough recognition for their efforts. The III MEF arrives the day before the ceremony to "establish a support detachment on Iwo Jima ... in order to ensure a successful, respectful, ceremony" and to "provide ceremonial support commensurate with the level of contribution of the veterans who served in World War II while showing the appropriate decorum for the Japanese memorial service." This all is done with the cooperation of our hosts, the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) who are stationed on the island and supplied the majority of the transportation to the ceremony site.



The veterans are now loaded into vehicles for the journey to the top of Mt. Suribachi. The majority of everyone else is shuttled to the ceremony site by the JMSDF. Those that desire to go to Mt. Suribachi, walk the winding road in order to get there.



We arrive at the top of Mt. Suribachi at around 11:15 am where the veterans then mingled with

friends and family. A few folks had flags to raise and were kindly assisted by the Marines to do so. We were also pleasantly surprised to find the Lt Gen Lawrence D. Nicholson was conducting promotion ceremonies for two Marines from III MEF and were privileged to be able to witness the ceremony.



It was such a beautiful serene day, but one could not help but imagine what the Marines had to endure 71 years ago on the landing beaches below.

After spending an hour on Mt. Suribachi, the veterans were whisked back down to the ceremony site where the program was set to start at 1 pm.

At that point it was 12:30 pm and I decided now might be a good time to walk down to the beach for some private reflections. I passed several people coming back up from the beach leaving it essentially deserted by that point.

It is a powerful feeling, standing there alone on the beach with the waves crashing ashore. Looking down at the sand terraces that 71 years ago were being scaled by young Marines. With each two steps forward they took one step back, all while



taking devastating enemy fire, which ended many of their young lives.

I head back up to where the ceremony was to begin, but not before crossing paths with Lt. Gen Nicholson, who may have been heading down to the beach for inspiration and reflection as well, prior to presenting his talk at the ceremony.



About two thirds of the way back up, you are greeted by a Japanese pill box which still houses a rusty machine gun that you are reminded also greeted the landing Marines 71 years ago.

The ceremony starts promptly at 1 pm and is punctuated by moving speeches from U.S. and Japanese dignitaries followed by a wreath laying at the Reunion of Honor (ROH) monument. Wreaths are traditionally laid by dignitaries and veterans, but this year was very special, as Jerry Yellin's granddaughter Sara, was in attendance as a representative of bereaved families. Sara laid a wreath with Bonnie Haynes who's husband Fred was a captain in Combat Team 28 on Iwo Jima.



You say, what is so special about that. It turns out that after the war, Jerry's son Robert, married a

Japanese woman who's father just happened to be a Japanese fighter pilot. So Sara has two grandparents who fought against each other in WWII, yet she is living proof that time and love can heal old wounds.

Another veteran in attendance was Japanese Naval veteran, Shingi Nakazato. Shingi-san had visited Iwo Jima three times during the war to provide food and ammunition to the garrison located there. His resupply ship was sunk on Sept 19, 1944 by a U.S. submarine and he had not been back since the war. Like Jerry Yellin he has a united Japanese/American family. His granddaughter is married to an American and lives in Florida.



So you can see how Jerry and Shingi-san's families epitomize the saying, once enemies, now friends (and now family).

The ceremony concluded at around 2 pm with the marching off of the colors. This is also the only time available for the U.S. and Japanese attendees to be able to meet and greet, and it is special indeed to see our veterans seek out Japanese to speak to.

It is especially moving to me to see how the veterans of



one of the bloodiest battles of WWII can achieve

reconciliation and inner peace with their former enemies and their descendants.

I know that for myself, that moment occurred twice in my life. Once as a young student engineer at Boise Cascade, working side by side with the son of a Luftwaffe pilot. I had grown up with shows like "Combat" and had worn my father's WWII uniform playing army with my friends, and had come to hate "Krauts". When I met this young man, I realized his father was just doing his job for his country as my father had done for his, and my hatred for Germans vanished. My hatred for the Japanese pilots who had attacked Hawaii on December 7, 1941 took a bit longer. I had an affinity towards the Japanese people in general, as my father had served in the occupation forces in Japan after the war, and I had heard good things from him. In addition we had hosted a young Japanese exchange student, Reiko, in 1991, in our home, and have stayed close friends every since. But I thought I could never forgive the Japanese for attacking Pearl Harbor. Then in 2006, during the 65th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, I arranged to reunite U.S. pilots and Japanese pilots from that battle. Only then did I make the same realization that they were also doing, what at the time, they considered their duty to their country.

If it had been that hard for me, I can't imagine how difficult it has been for combat veterans to make peace with their former enemies.

Al Eutsey, Jr., who was a 20 year old Sgt., who landed on Green beach, stated it well. When asked



about how he felt about coming back to Iwo Jima, he stated "feels like finally putting the battle to sleep after 71 years ... time to make peace, took a little while". Al was with Company C, 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, whose objective was to cross the neck of the island below Suribachi, thus cutting it off from the enemy. His company landed with 250 men. Only six walked off 36 days later without wounds. Sixty seven men of his company were killed during that period.

It is now around 2:30 pm and our time on Iwo Jima is now starting to come to an end, and it is time to get our veterans who still wish to visit the invasion beaches, down there. The III MEF again comes through with some utility vehicles, which they use to transfer veterans to the beaches of their choice. I accompanied Jack Lazere and Al Eutesy, Jr., down to Red 1 beach where we run into Carl DeHaven and his daughter Kim. Al had landed on Green beach, so we made a special trip there to collect some sand for him to take home.



The above photo dramatically shows how steep the terraces on the beaches are. In the distance is Red 1 beach and barely discernable are people collecting sand.

It is now approaching 4 pm and we head back to the hanger to go through security and then board our aircraft for home. The Japanese are especially sensitive about visitors taking home any battlefield relics, and you must pass through a rigorous search of your person and bags before they will process you through customs. I know I have been tempted to pick up a little shrapnel or a shell casing for myself,

but when you think about the carnage and death that occurred here, it would be ill advised to disturb what is in my opinion a sacred and honored place.



After a long and a emotionally rewarding day, we lift off of Iwo Jima at 4:45 pm and arrive back at Guam at 6:30 pm to a water cannon salute and are greeted with some light snacks by the USO and United employee's.

In reflecting upon this trip, I think of the joy I have had with my wife, my three children, and my three grand children. Joy for which those young men who gave their lives, would never experience. I am here because of them and because of their sacrifice. This is a fact for which I will never forget, and one which I can only pray will never fade from the memories of all Americans.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to visit Iwo Jima, I would urge you to do so soon. Even though our ties with the Japanese are strong and the standing agreement, is that as long as there are bereaved families wanting to visit Iwo Jima, that we shall do so, the reality is an economic one. Once our veterans are no longer able to return, I fear that the cost of holding this reunion will overrule the desire of those wanting to visit where their fathers, grandfathers, brothers, and uncles fought and died.

For more photos of the reunion, including our time on Guam, I encourage you to order a copy of the ROH Memory Book. Please send a check for \$19.50 to:

IJAA

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Interview with “Woody” Williams on ship naming and his new mission

By Matthew L. Schehl, Marine Corps Times

The last surviving Marine Medal of Honor recipient from the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima is about to have a Navy ship named for him. And while the ship will enable Marines and sailors to carry out new missions around the world, Hershel “Woody” Williams is setting out to complete one of his own — to get a Gold Star monument built in all 50 states.

Williams will become the namesake of the Navy's newest expeditionary sea base ship, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus formally announced at a ceremony in Charleston, West Virginia, earlier this month.

The Navy named the vessel, slated for delivery in



2018, for the 92-year-old war hero at the prompting of Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and after an 18-year campaign by Ron Wroblewski, president of the West Virginia Marine Corps Coordinating Council.

On Feb. 23, 1945, over a four-hour period in the struggle for the 8 square mile island, Williams took out a network of enemy defensive positions holding up his 3rd Marine Division's advance — with a flamethrower.

President Harry S. Truman personally awarded Williams the nation's highest military honor on Oct. 5, 1945, for his valor above and beyond the call of duty.

“Quick to volunteer his services when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through a network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines and black, volcanic sands, Corporal Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire from the unyielding positions,” his Medal of Honor citation reads.

Williams continued to serve in the Marines after the war until 1963, when he retired as a chief warrant officer four. He then continued in public service for a further 35 years with the Veterans Affairs Administration.

In 2012, he established the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, a charitable non-profit through which he is seeking to establish Gold Star Family memorials in all 50 states to honor the families of the fallen.

Marine Corps Times recently caught up with Williams to talk about that mission, and how he hopes his legacy will continue to live on through sailors and Marines aboard the new vessel named for him.

Q. What does it mean to have a ship named after you?

A. Well, others made it possible for it to be named for me. Secretary Mabus asked me the same thing. When you name something after someone, it means they're dead. They named it for me. I'm still living, and I'm not going anywhere.

Why would I, as a country boy from West Virginia, have a U.S. Navy ship named after me? The only reason is that others made it possible.

So I accept it as an honor on their behalf, not mine; it makes me very humble. I'm still trying to

comprehend its meaning to my family to have my name on it. There's no way I could ever adequately express appreciation for what this country has done on my behalf.



Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB) ship, T-ESB 4, USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams

Q. How do you hope this will help carry forward your legacy?

A. I'm not a predictor of the future, except for years there might be those who inquire and wonder who this ship is named after. Who was it that merited this honor? What's his story? I don't know the answer.

Q. Why did your senator push for this to happen?

A. First, you have to remember the name of the Marine Ronald Wroblewski, a Vietnam veteran who started this project in 1997. He had been through Norfolk and saw a ship being named after a Medal of Honor recipient. He knew there was a Medal of Honor recipient living back home in West Virginia, so why not do it for a living one?

I told him, "I'm not dead, so stop wasting your time." But he didn't, and by 2005 or 2006 he had submitted some 70,000 documents — signatures, resolutions, and the like — to the U.S. Navy. The Navy said it was the largest file they ever had to name a ship after someone.

My grandson, Brent Casey, a Desert Storm veteran, was familiar with what Wroblewski was doing. We went to Iwo Jima for the 70th anniversary of the battle. Secretary Mabus was there so Brent asked him about it.

Secretary Mabus looked into it and said the reason nothing ever happened was there was no ship to name and no authority to name one after someone living. Brent then asked Senator Manchin about it and he agreed to send a letter to Secretary Mabus, who worked to change the rules so a ship could be named for someone living.

Q. You're now working to establish Gold Star family memorials in all 50 states. Why is that such an important project for you?

A. Many Gold Star families have never been recognized. People don't really know what a "Gold Star Dad" is. We as a country have done a pretty good job recognizing Gold Star Mothers, but other family members haven't always been recognized.

When you lose a family member, everyone pays a price, everyone grieves. For many of them, these memorials are the first time in many years anyone has ever said, "Thank you for sacrifice you made when you lost a loved one."

Q. What is the goal of that project?

A. We set up the foundation in 2012 with the idea of having a memorial in each state. In 2013, we had the first dedication in West Virginia, the first in the U.S.

We needed a specific goal for the foundation, so we decided to try to have at least one in every state. We changed the wording to at least one so there'd be no limitations. Now in West Virginia we have three; Kentucky will have three and California, Texas and Ohio will have two.

The goal: Whatever it takes for our communities to be able to honor our Gold Star families, that's what they should do. There are about eight completed

memorials in six states and 18 more memorials at different stages of completion.

Q. Today's generation of Marines still read your Medal of Honor citation and learn about what you did that day so many decades ago. What do you recall most about the day you earned your MoH?

A. I can't say with certainty that one moment stands out above the rest, but if I had to choose, it was the moment the Japanese came charging out of their pillbox with their rifles, with bayonets fixed, toward me.

Fortunately, I still had fuel in the flamethrower and was able to get the igniter to work to set the fuel on fire. I just got them before they got me.

Q. What do you hope young Marines take away when they read that citation and hear about your story?

A. The best advice I'd give is to pay attention to every detail, because you never know what the circumstances will be that your life will depend on something you thought at the moment would never impact you.

Learn everything about your job so you'll be prepared should the unexpected happen.

On Feb. 23, 1945, it wasn't my job to know how a flamethrower works. My job was to make sure those guys had the gear and fuel they needed. But when it got around to me, there was no one left and I had to do it. That couldn't have been planned, but if I didn't know how to work it, I wouldn't be here talking with you today.

JMSDF Air Crew Aids NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Medevac on Iwo-To

by: Sky M. Laron, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka Director of Corporate



Communications

Capt. Raymond Bichard, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka, commanding officer, presents a letter of appreciation and command coins for his crew Jan. 7 to Lt. Wataru Narita, JMSDF Patrol Squadron THREE (VP-3) pilot, for his crews medical evacuation assistance in Iwo-To, Japan. (Photo by Sky M. Laron)

YOKOSUKA, Japan – Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) Fleet Logistic Center (FLC) Yokosuka, Commanding Officer Capt. Raymond Bichard presented a letter of appreciation to a Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) pilot Jan. 7 onboard Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi.

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation for you and your crew from JMSDF Patrol Squadron THREE (VP-3) for superb assistance to the highly successful medical evacuation for one of our Sailors from Iwo-To to Naval Air Facility Atsugi conducted on the early morning of 28 November 2015,” said Bichard.

NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka, Site Atsugi fuel department personnel, periodically conduct fuel support operations on the Japanese island of Iwo-

To, generally in support of Carrier Air Wing FIVE (CVW-5) night landing practice.

CVW-5 is America's "911" air wing and is a critical combat strike element of Battle Force Seventh Fleet, the only forward-deployed carrier strike group in the U.S. Navy.

Having the NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka personnel on island during the air wing's training allows the wing to receive the needed fuel to accomplish its mission.

"In addition to all aspects of [NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka] products and services being provided to all customers at NAF Atsugi, Site Atsugi is also responsible to provide fuel support on both NAF Atsugi and Iwo-To for CVW-5, [Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron Five One] and other transient aircraft operating in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility," said Lt. Jeff Eom, NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka, Site Atsugi director.

The support on Iwo-To holds historical significance as well, with the island itself being hallowed ground.

The island of Iwo-To previously known as Iwo-Jima, was the sight of one of the bloodiest World War II battles in the Pacific theater with thousands of U.S. and Japanese servicemembers killed. It is also where the U.S. flag-raising on Mount Suribachi was ordered, which was captured in an iconic photo by The Associated Press' Joe Rosenthal.

Seventy years later fierce enemies are now staunch allies and the current JMSDF facilities are periodically shared in support of the required U.S. training needs.

One example of the strength of today's American and Japanese partnership was displayed with the successful medical evacuation that took place Nov. 28.

"It didn't matter if the injured person was American or Japanese," said Lt. Wataru Narita, JMSDF VP-3 pilot. "My mission was to carry an injured person

back to the mainland and I did what I had to do to accomplish the mission."

Wataru and his crew's prompt response to the urgent flight request significantly contributed to the safe care of the NAVSUP FLC Yokosuka servicemember when absolutely required, said Bichard.

"[Wataru's] outstanding support reflects not only unselfish devotion to duty but also caring for our nations' longstanding and even stronger alliance," said Bichard.

Marine Corp Films to be Preserved

by Mark W. Stevens

The University of South Carolina has taken on the enormous task to preserving the vast collection of films in the Marine Corp archives.

Many of these films will include never before seen footage of the battle of Iwo Jima as well as other films from WWII, the Korean war, and the Vietnam War.

The ultimate goal is to make all of these films available to the public on-line.

South Carolina's Moving Image Research Collection is part of the school's library system and it will be organizing, cataloging and digitizing the films,

Late last year, the first of 300 reels of the films arrived at the university. The process is very labor intensive and will probably take years to compete.

The films will be transformed into high-definition video which will offer color and detail that is unavailable now.

I personally can't wait to start viewing these films, and as soon as they start to get published, I will make sure that IJAA members have access to them.

John Keith Wells

Anonymous Author

Thought you all might have an interest in seeing some history. We have a luncheon group in Denver which I attend ... We have about 140 members on the roster. About 60 to 90 people show up every month at our American Legion hall for a lunch... This month we had a remembrance... to remember one of our recently deceased members, Lieutenant John Keith Wells.

Who is Keith Wells? He was the platoon commander of 3d Plt, Easy Company, 2/28. His men made it to the top of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima and planted the first flag. John Bradley whose son wrote, *Flags of our Father's* was one of his platoon members that made it to the top...all of the others are documented in that book and Keith's book...

Keith came to a lot of our meetings in the past. He grew up in west Texas and Felix Salmeron grew up in the same area and knew him quite well as a boy and later when Felix was on Marine Corps recruiting duty in west Texas. Keith, after the war became an oil man with many oil lease interests in that area. Felix attended his funeral recently in Abilene, TX where they laid him to rest. In his retirement Keith moved to Arvada, Colorado to live with his daughter, Connie after his wife had passed. That is how he got involved with us in his later years.

Here are some of the photos I took over the last couple/three years....



LR: Jim Blane, Keith Wells, Jack Thurman all Iwo Jima Marines



LR: Keith's daughter, Connie; Sgt Maj Ken Wiese bag pipes

Some of Keith's men raising first flag... Keith did not make it to the top. He was badly wounded...his men did this first same flag.



Colonel Bob Fischer is Colonel Pete Eller's classmate at Annapolis, Class of 1955. Bob knew Keith quite well and as to why Keith's men of 3rd Platoon, told the story to us of the first flag raising and the politics involved as to why Keith's men of Easy company did not get any recognition early on for raising the first flag...

Keith wrote a book about Iwo Jima and the first flag published in 1995..."Give Me Fifty Marines Not Afraid To Die"... He would tell you that he only got 45 volunteers to go...He gave the command to go...got up and started running and hoped that his men would be following him...It was funny



the way he told it to us when he was alive... I am sure it was not funny at the time...

USMC Statement on Iwo Jima Flagraisers

**By Office of U.S. Marine Corps
Communication, Headquarters Marine
Corps**

PENTAGON -- June 23, 2016

The U.S. Marine Corps has concluded that a previously unknown Marine is in the iconic flag raising image taken atop Mt. Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

Researchers working on a Smithsonian Channel documentary about AP photographer Joe Rosenthal's iconic image approached the Marine Corps months ago to consider their theory that the identities of the flag raisers are incorrect.

The Marine Corps' commandant, Gen. Robert Neller, formed a review panel to consider all available images, film, statements and previous investigations. That panel and the commandant came to the same conclusion: that one of the six men in the Rosenthal photograph was misidentified. The Marine Corps now believes Navy Pharmacist's Mate 2nd Class John Bradley was not in the Rosenthal image, but was involved in the initial flag raising hours before the famous photo was taken. Based upon the evidence reviewed, another Marine, Private First Class Harold Schultz, from Detroit, Mich. was the sixth man caught in the frame of what is considered the most famous war photograph.

"Our history is important to us, and we have a responsibility to ensure it's right," said Neller.

"Although the Rosenthal image is iconic and significant, to Marines it's not about the individuals and never has been," according to Neller. "Simply stated, our fighting spirit is captured in that frame, and it remains a symbol of the tremendous

accomplishments of our Corps -- what they did together and what they represent remains most important. That doesn't change."

The Marine Corps' review panel was led by a retired general officer, Jan Huly, and consisted of both active duty and retired Marines, as well as two military historians. They reviewed the material beginning in late April and recently presented their findings and recommendations to Neller for his decision.

Now the Marine Corps' history will reflect the identities of the six flag raisers as:

Corporal Harlon Block, Private First Class Rene Gagnon, Private First Class Ira Hayes, Private First Class Harold Schultz, Private First Class Franklin Sousley, and Sergeant Michael Strank.

Credit, where Credit is Due

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention my wife Glorene. My wife has been a tremendous support to me in all of my endeavors, and travels with me all over the world to help honor and

preserve the memories of the greatest generation.



Not only is she there for support, but she is an accomplished photographer in her own right, and took fully 1/2 of all of the 2,360 photos that we took on the

2016 ROH. I couldn't do what I do without her.

Thank you honey, and I promise that one of these days, we will take a vacation where you don't have to work.



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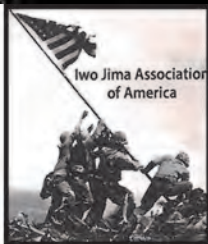
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The Iwo Jima Association of America would like to thank the Owner of Stonewall Arms, Mr. Bill Randolph for the donation of the Springfield Armory M1A Scout Sniper Rifle for the IJAA Raffle! Please remember Stonewall Arms for all your small arms, shooting gear, equipment and ammo needs at their online store at www.stonewallarmsstore.com.

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IJAA's 2017 Fund Raiser

Three Great Prizes

1st Prize*
AM-15 Rifle



The M4 Anderson is a .223/5.56 caliber, 16" Chrome Moly Vanadium Steel Barrel Carbine



*Weapon donated by the
IJAA's friend*

** - Winner must comply with all State
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2nd Prize
Flag Flown on Mt Suribachi*



** - With Flag Box & Iwo Sand*



3rd Prize
Patriotic Quilt



*To enter this fund-raiser, complete the enclosed form and send in your tickets.
Winners will be drawn at the Reunion of Honor Banquet on Guam.
You need not be present to win. Deadline for ticket donations 24 Mar 2017.*

IJAA RAFFLE TICKETS

\$20 each or 6 for \$100

Make checks payable to Iwo Jima Association of America.

You do not need to be present to win!

Mail Form (with CC Info or Checks)

IJAA

P.O. Box 680

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<p align="center">2017 IJAA Fund Raiser Ticket Win a AR-15 M4 Carbine Iwo Jima Flag, Patriotic Quilt</p>	<p align="center">Return This Stub</p> <p>Name _____ Street Address _____ City, State and Zip _____ Phone # _____ Email Address _____</p>
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RUN 4 IWO VETS FUND RAISER

Help us help our Greatest Generation Veterans—The **Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA)** is soliciting your support.... 12 dedicated runners have formed a team to run in the 26.2 mile Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC on 30 October. The purpose is to raise funds, via sponsorships and donations, to assist in funding our Iwo Jima Veterans return to Iwo Jima, the iconic Pacific battles site.

IJAA hosts an annual Reunion Of Honor on Iwo Jima along with the Japanese, as a Memorial to the fallen on both sides of that terrible conflict, to further strengthen the bond of friendship between our two great countries, and as a testimonial to two former adversaries who gave their all.

As you know, these aging warriors are in the 90s, but many can still travel, however, most are on fixed incomes and simply do not have the funds to return to the Island's Black Sands. With your help, we can grant some of them their wish to return. All funds, for which we solicit your support, go to help fund these veterans' return. Donations may be made via credit card or check made out to IJAA Marathon, PO Box 680, Quantico, VA 22134.

For questions, please email: rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org or call (703) 590-1295.

For donation and tax purposes, IJAA is a non-profit 501(c) 3 Public Charity with IRS #80-0255086.



72ND IWO JIMA "REUNION OF HONOR" 20-27 MARCH 2017

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) 72nd "Reunion of Honor," coordinated by IJAA's travel partner Military Historical Tours 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 campaigns 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.

Clockwise From Top Left: THEN CMC NOW CJCS GEN "JOE" DUNFORD & LTGEN "LARRY" SNOWDEN ON IWO; "SAM" HOLIDAY, A 4TH MARDIV CODE TALKER BACK ON THE "BLACK SANDS"; WOODY WILLIAMS, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT (LEFT) & THE EAGLE, GLOBE & ANCHOR ON MT. SURIBACHI.



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