



The Black Sands

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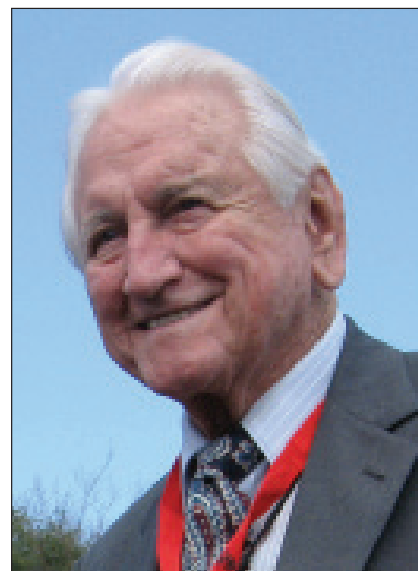
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LTGEN SNOWDEN, LED 'REUNION OF HONOR' TOURS, DIES AT 95

When LtGen Lawrence F. Snowden died on Feb. 18, it was Feb. 19 on Iwo Jima—72 years to the day after he'd led Fox Company of the 23rd Marine Regiment ashore for that iconic and bloody battle. Gen Snowden, the chairman emeritus of the Iwo Jima Association of America, passed away peacefully in Tallahassee, Fla., with his two sons at his side and was honored with a memorial service April 8 at the U.S. Marine Memorial Chapel aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Born April 14, 1921, in Charlottesville, Va., the general volunteered in the Marine Corps Reserve as a University of Virginia student shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and served with the Fourth Marine Division on Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima, then went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam before retirement in 1979.

After serving nearly 40 years, he continued serving the Marine Corps in one capacity or another, dedicating much of his life to peace, reconciliation and service to fellow veterans. He was instrumental in



LtGen Lawrence F. Snowden

Continued

SNAIL MAIL VERSUS EMAIL

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Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert Neller (left), follows a procession of two Marines carrying the remains of LtGen Lawrence Snowden and a folded American flag during the April 8 memorial service at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va

(Photo by Cpl Timothy Turner, MCB Quantico Combat Camera)

creating the annual Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima in 1995 and always attended the event that brought Americans and Japanese together in peace to remember the sacrifices of the 6,821 Americans who died in the battle, more than 19,000 who were wounded and some 21,000 Japanese who died defending the island.

The memorial service at Quantico was filled with friends who had come to celebrate his life and say goodbye to a true gentleman and respected warrior. Attendees included retired Marine General and Secretary of Defense James Mattis; Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert Neller; numerous other USMC current and retired generals; and a member of Japan's House of Representatives, Yoshitaka Shindo, who is also the grandson of Gen Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the commanding Japanese general during the Iwo Jima battle.

"The LtGen Snowden Memorial Service and Reception was an all-hands effort," Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret.) and executive vice president of IJAA, wrote. "I served in the Marine Corps 33 years, and I had never witnessed such a service before. The commandant, Rep. Shindo, Chaplain (Keith) Ethridge

(with the National Chaplain Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs), the Marine Corps Band, the gun salute and a flyover was outstanding and justly deserved for a great Marine, father and friend."

During the battle of Iwo Jima, then-Capt Snowden was wounded and evacuated to Guam, where he promptly talked his way onto a plane carrying blood and mail back to Iwo Jima to rejoin his company and his men. He was later wounded a second time. His many decorations included the Navy Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

In recent decades, Gen Snowden was best known for ensuring the annual Reunion of Honor trip to Iwo Jima that took

place each March and brought together American and Japanese veterans and families to recognize the sacrifice and honor the dead on both sides, seek reconciliation between prior enemies, and affirm the post-World War II friendship between two former adversaries.

Gen Snowden's two sons, Steve and Brian, each gave moving tributes about their father, which included humor and personal insights that added to the positive celebratory theme of the memorial service.

Rep. Shindo traveled from Japan to attend the service and spoke in honor and remembrance of Gen Snowden, and a statement from the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, was read, as well. (See accompanying remarks.)

After the traditional chapel memorial service, attendees were directed outside on a beautiful sunny day, where Marine Corps Commandant Gen Neller presented a flag to family members amidst memorial observances that included an artillery battery salute, the traditional gun salute, a V-22 Osprey flyover, with "The President's Own" Marine Band providing an appropriate background cadence.



*Gen Robert Neller presents the U.S. flag to the family of LtGen Lawrence Snowden, on behalf of a grateful nation.
(Photo by Cpl Timothy Turner, MCB Quantico Combat Camera)*

The V-22 Osprey flyover was performed with perfect timing as everyone exited the chapel from the memorial service. The aircraft, with their unique rotor signature, could be heard approaching and as they passed over with their rotors in airplane mode. One then broke from the formation, climbing steadily as the others continued on course, in a variation of the “missing man” formation.

A reception followed at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, where Col Wiedhahn served as master of ceremonies. Rep. Shindo reiterated his remarks, and additional speakers were Arnold Shapiro, producer, writer and director whose work includes the recent PBS documentary, “Iwo Jima: From Combat to Comrades,” about the battle and today’s reunions; and former USMC Commandant Gen Al Gray, joined by Bonnie Haynes, widow of MajGen Fred Haynes, who founded the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima, now IJAA.



Retired Marine General and U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis, left, is pictured with retired Marine Col Steve Snowden, son of LtGen Lawrence Snowden.

*(Photo by Cpl Timothy Turner,
MCB Quantico Combat Camera)*



The reception at the National Museum of the Marine Corps included IJAA members, from left to right, Col Warren Weidhahn, Col Bill Rockey, Bonnie Haynes, Yoshitaka Shindo, Norm Baker, Gene Bell, Ivan Hammond, Col Steve Snowden and Doug Meny.

*(Photo by Cpl Timothy Turner,
MCB Quantico Combat Camera)*

“Gen Snowden was part of making that (Iwo Jima) history and handing down a legacy that we are all proud to continue today,” Gen Neller said.

The IJAA salutes Gen Snowden and re-affirms its commitment to remember the battle of Iwo Jima and continue to hold the annual Reunion of Honor ceremony, per Gen Snowden’s mission to recognize that “we had transitioned from being enemies to friends” and to pass this tradition on to future generations.

The Snowden family plans to take Gen Snowden’s ashes back to the black sands of Iwo Jima during the Reunion of Honor next March to be joined with the blood of Marines who were killed and wounded there in February and March of 1945.

IJAA’s Doug Meny, Raul Sifuentes, John Powell and Ray Elliott contributed to this report.

Editor’s note: To learn more about this remarkable and respected Marine, read his recently published book, “Snowden’s Story: One Marine’s Indebtedness to the Corps,” available at Amazon.com.

LETTER FROM JAPAN’S PRIME MINISTER

I am filled with profound sadness after having heard the news of the passing of Lawrence F. Snowden, chairman emeritus of the Iwo Jima Association of America.

In 2015, when I gave an address to a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress, LtGen Snowden kindly presented himself to the gallery. During the address, LtGen Snowden, who landed on Iwo Jima as a captain in command of a company 70 years ago, and Diet Member Yoshitaka Shindo, a grandson of General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, a commander of the Japanese garrison during the Battle of Iwo Jima, embraced tightly each other. The scene, which I call “a miracle of history,” deeply impressed not only people present at the chamber, but also Japanese and American people who watched the televised image. It is only because of LtGen Snowden’s presence at the chamber at that moment, that I could send to the world the message of reconciliation between Japan and the U.S., once enemies that fought each other so fiercely later became friends bonded in spirit. Japanese and American people will never forget the embrace.

LtGen Snowden was a brave commander, having participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima between Japan and the U.S., and also made a tremendous contribution to promote reconciliation between the two countries. Thanks to LtGen Snowden’s efforts, the Japan-U.S. joint memorial service, Reunion of Honor, which was held for the first time at Iwo Jima in 1985 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of the battle, has now developed to be an annual event. LtGen Snowden’s accomplishment is engraved in the Japanese people’s heart as a symbol of Japan-U.S. reconciliation after World War II, as well as the rock-solid Japan-U.S. alliance.

At this time of loss and sadness, my thoughts and prayers are with you. By commemorating great achievements of LtGen Snowden, I sincerely hope that he will rest in peace.

*Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister of Japan*

REMARKS FROM JAPANESE REP. YOSHITAKA SHINDO

LtGen Snowden was a brave commander, as well as a hero of the U.S. Marine Corps. He showed his courage in the battle of Iwo-To more than 70 years ago.

General,

You and I have been working together for holding the Reunion of Honor Ceremony, Japan-U.S. joint memorial service on Iwo-To, where the fellow soldiers and the bereaved families get together annually. You once said, "We didn't and don't go to Iwo-To to celebrate victory, but for the solemn purpose to pay tribute to and honor those who lost their lives on both sides."

Just two years ago, our efforts on Iwo-To were introduced by Prime Minister Abe as a symbol of reconciliation between Japan and the U.S., when he gave an address to a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress. During the ensuing standing ovation after the address, you and I, praising each other, firmly shook hands. "What a great moment." The souls of the brave men who fought on Iwo-To, including those who lost their lives and those who survived, were rewarded.

As a matter of fact, you were already not in good condition at that time. So, you once declined an invitation from the Congress. But after you learned that the Prime Minister was going to mention our efforts on Iwo-To, you decided to present yourself to the gallery sitting on a wheelchair, saying, "This is the last fight for me."

You and I made a promise after the address: "Let's stay in good shape and see you again soon." Then, you and I embraced tightly each other for the first time, filled with the sorrow of parting.

Today, I have come here to see you again. But I feel really sad that I will not be able to talk with you anymore, and the sorrow is mounting.

I give you a promise. I and those who were left behind will succeed your life-long activity of remembering and honoring those who sacrificed their lives for their respective countries and your wishes for enduring peace. Furthermore, I will pass down those activities to future generations.

An outstanding brave commander, Gen Snowden will join his former comrades again. I will never forget your smile, filled with warmth and benevolence, and your tenacious spirit. You had a kind heart. I pray from the bottom of my heart that your soul will rest in peace.



Yoshitaka Shindo

(Photo by Cpl Timothy Turner, MCB Quantico Combat Camera)

Yoshitaka Shindo

Representative of Bereaved Families of Japanese Iwo-To Association

Former Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications

Member of the House of Representatives of Japan

IN MEMORIAM

LTGEN LARRY SNOWDEN, USMC (RET.)

14 APRIL 1921 - 18 FEBRUARY 2017

LtGen Larry Snowden came to the Marines' Memorial Club several times. The first official visit was the occasion of the 60th anniversary commemoration of the battle for Iwo Jima. He was the senior surviving veteran of the battle and was our guest speaker for the commemoration event. (On the morning the event was scheduled, Clint Eastwood announced that he was coming, too. He was doing research for the movie "Flags of Our Fathers.") During Gen Snowden's speech, he told a story of an extraordinary Marine named Boots Thomas.

Boots was a star athlete, scholar and leader in his high school in the early 1940s. Boots enlisted in the Marine Corps and became a hero on Iwo Jima, but was killed there. After Gen Snowden talked about Boots, he said:

"... We can measure the cost of warfare in terms of bombs, beans, bullets, ships, armor, whatever. What we CANNOT measure is the COST of lost POTENTIAL to his community, his state, his nation, from young men...and, now, young women...due to their loss during wartime. It's the best argument I know that nations ought to learn we've got to solve our differences in ways other than warfare and killing."

Gen Snowden was the company commander of Company F, 23rd Marines on Iwo Jima. When he landed there in February 1945, he had plenty of combat experience, having also fought in the battles for Roi Namur in the Marshall Islands, and the capture of Saipan and Tinian in 1944. In the battle on Iwo Jima, he was wounded and evacuated back to the ship. They dressed his wounds and he became one of only two Marines wounded who requested to return to the island. He returned to his company and



(Photo by Maj Aisha Bakkar, 2012)

resumed the fight. He commented that his company was his "family" and he had to rejoin them.

After the war, Gen Snowden earned a master's degree from Northwestern University and remained in the Marine Corps, serving in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, where he commanded the 7th Marines. When he retired, he was Assistant Commandant, wearing two Distinguished Service Medals, five Legion of Merit awards, including two for combat, and two Purple Hearts, and a chest full of other ribbons.

He returned to San Francisco in 2009 and 2012. In 2009, he was the keynote speaker for the official tribute to Joe Rosenthal, the photographer who took the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, after Joe died. In 2012, he came again to speak at our Iwo Jima commemoration. He led reunions on the island of Iwo Jima with Japanese and American survivors and their relatives for many years up until he reached the age of 93. He was quite a Marine!

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CROSSROADS of the Corps, Spring 2017*

EAST AND WEST COAST GROUPS COME TOGETHER AT CAMP PENDLETON

By Ray Elliott

The Iwo Jima Association of America of Quantico, Va., and the Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee of San Diego, Calif., joined together Feb. 15-19 at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to acknowledge the 72nd anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima.

Both organizations have met separately in February for many years to remember and commemorate one of the bloodiest and most brutal campaigns in the most costly war in history. For 36 days, more than 70,000 U.S. Marines and sailors, aided by tens of thousands of airmen in the air, sailors at sea and coastguardsmen on

the island, fought tooth and nail, inch by inch against the 22,000 Japanese defenders led by LtGen Tadamichi Kuribayashi.

Nearly 6,000 Marines gave their lives of the total 6,821 Americans killed on the island of 8 square miles of volcanic soil 650 miles from Toyko that was needed for damaged planes to land when returning to the Mariana Islands from bombing raids over Japan and a base for fighter squadrons to escort the bombers all the way. Another 19,000 men were wounded, and nearly all of the 22,000 Japanese died in the battle. Twenty-seven Medals

of Honor were awarded on Iwo Jima, 22 of them to Marines of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Marine Divisions.

Lest we forget the spirit of those who fought so gallantly for the principles of our nation and to preserve democracy and free those oppressed by tyranny, these two groups are committed to perpetuating that spirit into the future and ensuring that future generations remember the battle long after the last Iwo Jima veteran has gone.

Both IJAA and the Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee

Continued



The Iwo Jima veterans who attended the 2017 joint IJAA/West Coast Iwo Jima Committee symposium gather for a group photo. (Photo by Julie Licari/Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee)

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toured Camp Pendleton on Thursday and the Marine Recruit Depot in San Diego on Friday. Lunch was included on base each day at the Marine Corps Air Station at Pendleton and at the Bay View Restaurant at MCRD.

Prior to the Memorial Service at Camp Pendleton on Saturday evening, IJAA hosted a symposium at the Carlsbad by the Sea Resort that included several distinguished speakers, led Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer, LtCol, USMC (Ret.) and currently the director and chief of Marine Corps history at Marine Corps University, Quantico. He addressed the historical events leading up to World War II and Iwo Jima, the actual battle and the aftermath to current times.

Arnold Shapiro, the producer and director who raised the funds for and wrote the words on the Reunion of Honor memorial just above the landing beaches where the ceremony is held annually, was presented a certificate honoring his service to IJAA and the veterans of the battle.

Marine veteran and Fox News contributor David Webb attended the symposium and memorial and interviewed Iwo Jima veterans for his satellite radio show. The host of "The David Webb Show" on SiriusXM Patriot 125 serves on the boards of the Young Marines National Foundation and the Wounded Warriors Family Support, and is an adviser to the V.E.T.S. program and IJAA. He went to Iwo Jima with IJAA and the Military Historical Tours in 2015 and reported his recorded observations from Mount Suribachi. Often in his more than 25-year career, he has appeared as a commentator on radio



Top left: BrigGen Kevin Killea, Commanding General of Marine Corps West Coast Base, Camp Pendleton, gave the "welcome aboard" address. Middle: SgtMaj Bradley Kasal is evacuated after he was wounded during the battle of Fallujah and was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions. What has become an iconic photo was taken by Lucien Read and is reprinted here with permission. Below: Now Sgt-Maj Kasal discussed the heroism of Iwo Jima Marines in his remarks. (Other photos by Julie Licari)



and television throughout much of the country.

Also present at the symposium were representatives Tom Graves and Fourth Marine Division Iwo Jima veteran Dale Cook, president of the Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association. Rosenthal's photo is arguably the most reproduced photo in history and is a recognized symbol of Iwo Jima and the Marine Corps. In addition to bringing the history and significance of the photo to younger generations, teaching them about the Marines, Iwo Jima and the sacrifices of the WWII veterans, the group hopes to have a US Navy warship named after Rosenthal.

Sadly, during the symposium while Neimeyer was speaking, Pam Marvin, widow of Fourth Marine Division veteran of Saipan and actor Lee Marvin received a call that the founder of the Reunion of Honor and Iwo Jima veteran LtGen Lawrence "Larry" Snowden had passed away.

The Iwo Jima Memorial Service began at 4:30 p.m. that evening at Camp Pendleton on the westerly side of the Pacific View Events Center near where Laura Dietz, founder of the Iwo Jima Monument West, is leading the initiative to erect a Marine Corps War Memorial.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a wreath was laid at Camp Pendleton at the current Iwo Jima Memorial erected in the area that overlooks the Pacific Ocean. The program closed with a 21-gun salute and Taps for the men who died on Iwo Jima.

Afterwards, the Pacific View

Events Center opened the World War II memorabilia display in the rear of the banquet hall. At 5:30 p.m., the Presentation of Colors was followed by a concert by the First Marine Division Band. Brig-Gen Kevin Killea, Commanding General of Marine Corps West Coast Base, Camp Pendleton, gave the "welcome aboard" address. The program included an invocation, the Empty Chair Tribute, and an Iwo Jima flag-raising tableau.

According to Dustin Lange, a Marine veteran from Illinois, and many others, guest speaker SgtMaj Bradley Kasal, a 1stSgt during the battle of Fallujah, gave a rousing speech. A picture of the then-sergeant major as he was evacuated during the battle after he was wounded made him an icon in the Marine Corps and was awarded the Navy Cross for his action at Fallujah. A monument was later erected aboard Pendleton based on that photo. The statue is entitled, "No Man Left Behind." He was stationed at Camp Pendleton in 2016 where he is the current First Expeditionary Force sergeant major.

"The highlight of the banquet was the true humbleness of the heroic SgtMaj Kasal," said Lange, a former platoon sergeant who served eight years in the Marine Corps and was deployed three times during his tour to Africa, Europe and the Middle East, and is now associate director of the Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education at the University of Illinois.

"When the sergeant major

took to the podium as the guest speaker, he didn't mention his own experiences in battle, but centered his speech on the heroism of the Iwo Jima Marines sitting in front of him. He alluded to how they were his *heroes* growing up for what they have done for our country. SgtMaj Kasal was a true example of what every Marine leader, both officers and non-commissioned officers, should strive to emulate."

Closing remarks and dinner followed.

At the IJAA business meeting, several cities were suggested for the 2018 symposium and memorial, but at a meeting after the West Coast event, IJAA President LtGen Norm Smith, USMC (Ret.) and board members determined that the meeting would be back in Arlington, as it has been for years.

"I enjoyed the event on the West Coast," Fifth Marine Division Association president and IJAA board member John Butler said afterward. "But I'm glad we're going back to the East Coast."

Sunday, Feb. 19, was a travel day. But Jim Hipskind, who had been stationed at El Toro with a flight crew for his four-year enlistment, opted to go by the old base.

"This was the same day I had graduated from boot camp in San Diego 35 years prior," he said. "What I didn't expect to see was the lack of any landmarks. Everything was pretty much gone. I thought this must be what it would feel like to drive past your childhood home, and it was completely gone, with no visual reference to a past part of your life that you cherished."

USMC HONORS SHAPIRO FOR REUNION OF HONOR EFFORTS

By Ray Elliott

Arnold Shapiro, Oscar- and 16-time Emmy Award-winning producer and director, was honored with a Certificate of Recognition from Marine Corps Commandant Gen Robert B. Neller during the IJAA Symposium at Camp Pendleton Feb. 18 to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

While his best-known work nationally is the 1978 award-winning documentary, "Scared Straight," Shapiro is known in the Marine Corps for raising the funds for the Reunion of Honor monument on Iwo Jima, writing the words on the memorial and producing and directing three documentaries about the battle and the reunions: "Return To Iwo Jima" (1985), hosted by retired USMC Col Ed McMahon; "Heroes of Iwo Jima" (2000), hosted by Marine veteran Gene Hackman; and "Iwo Jima: From Combat to Comrades" (2015), hosted by Ryan Phillippe.

Shapiro was commended for envisioning and organizing a "Reunion of Honor" for the Americans and Japanese veterans to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the battle.

The citation continues, "Mr. Shapiro's initiative and leadership has been crucial in ensuring that the heritage of Iwo Jima is passed down through the generations."

He attended his first Iwo Jima commemoration at Camp Pendleton in 1983 because of his longtime interest in the battle and Joe Rosenthal's photo and made the suggestion to return to Iwo Jima for the 40th anniversary in 1985.

"That's how it all began," Shapiro said. "Maj Bob Hipkins, USMC (Ret.); Sol Walt Ridlon, USMC (Ret.);



Arnold Shapiro, right, is presented with a Certificate of Recognition by LtGen L.A. Craparotta.

(Photo by Tom Graves)

Ed Harloff; Art Anderson; and Herman "Doc" Rabec took the germ of the idea, formed a committee and made it happen."

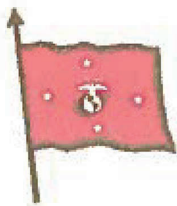
With support from the State Department and the prime minister of Japan, the first Reunion of Honor included the unveiling of the memorial just above the invasion beach.

"I went to my friend, Michael Wayne (John Wayne's son) and asked if the Wayne family would fund the monument," Shapiro said. "Michael agreed, but would take no credit and didn't want the Wayne name on it. I then wrote

the words in what—to this day—I regard as the words I am most proud of out of everything I've ever written."

Shapiro interviewed Marine combat photographer Lou Lowery and Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal for the first documentary. But without the help of Col Fred Peck, USMC (Ret.), public affairs officer in Los Angeles, Shapiro said the film could not have been made.

"The fact that my strong interest led me to actually meeting Rosenthal and John Bradley; that I got to visit Iwo Jima seven times and stand on the spot of the second flag raising; that I got to see both flags from Feb. 19 up close; that I was privileged to write the words on the monument that remains on the invasion beaches; that I got to interview and know dozens of Iwo Jima veterans; that I was able to make three films about this important event in our history—all this was unimaginable to me that evening in 1983 at Camp Pendleton. And, finally, to be given an award by the IJAA near Camp Pendleton, where it all started 34 years ago, is beyond belief. I am honored and humbled."



26 January 2017

Dear Mr. Shapiro,

I want to personally thank you for your faithfulness to our veterans of the battle of Iwo Jima. Your idea to bring American and Japanese servicemembers together to commemorate the 40th anniversary of this iconic battle has become an annual "Reunion of Honor" that pays tribute to the service and sacrifice of these veterans. The monument you had erected on that hallowed ground also serves as a reminder of the heroic actions that took place on Iwo Jima. Over the years, the three documentaries you produced have helped the citizens of our country more fully understand the true meaning of the phrase, "uncommon valor was a common virtue." You have helped instill an appreciation for the historical significance of what happened on that small Pacific island in 1945, and we are grateful for your contributions.

The members of our "greatest generation" answered our Nation's call during a time of great need. The spirit and fortitude of those Marines played a key role in shaping our Corps today. Marines serving throughout the world take great pride in carrying on the illustrious legacy of valor, discipline, and steadfast fidelity forged on the black sands of Iwo Jima. Because of your works, the proud legacy and heritage of those Marines who fought and died on Iwo Jima will live on forever.

Your efforts touched many lives and have made a lasting impact. On behalf of all Marines, I thank you for your contributions to our Corps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Neller".

Robert B. Neller
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES

PETITION STARTED TO NAME SHIP FOR ROSENTHAL

By Tom Graves, Historian

Joe Rosenthal Chapter, USMC, Combat Correspondents Association

I do not have a bucket list, but if I did, March 25 of this year would have been a watershed event when our Military Historical Tours' group landed on Iwo Jima for the annual Reunion of Honor.

Not only did I tread the same barren island the Marines did 72 years ago, but I walked up Mt. Suribachi and stood where the most significant photo of all time was taken—by a short, 33-year-old with “Coke-bottle glasses” and lousy vision: Joe Rosenthal.

I've lately learned a lot about Rosenthal and have come to appreciate him, and especially, the photo we all know. A group of Marine and Navy veterans are urging the Secretary of the Navy to honor Joe with his name on a warship. More on this later, but you can help now by signing their petition at www.USSJoe.org.

“Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima” not only raised the spirits of the entire nation in 1945, it endures as a symbol of the Marine Corps. It still causes our hearts to soar, the same as when we hear “The Star Spangled Banner” played at the Olympics or on a distant battlefield, as it was at the Iwo Jima memorial service. It stirs something in all of us, an extraordinary pride and reverence, a rare connection with history, a feeling so profound it fills our eyes with tears, even my own, again and again.

Joe Rosenthal's poor eyesight kept him out of the military, but he found a way to contribute to the war effort like no one else. He climbed Mt. Suribachi with Marines of the 28th Regiment, Fifth Marine Division, on Feb. 23, 1945—the fifth day of the bloody five-week-long battle for the tiny volcanic island. He knew the American flag flying at the summit had been photographed. But he continued up, just in case another photo presented itself. Besides, he was told, it was a great view from the top.

Those of you who, like me, have walked up Suribachi's paved switchback the SeaBees constructed after the battle know it is a real climb. It left me huffing and



*Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal
(Photo by Pfc Robert R. Campbell, USMC)*

puffing. In February 1945, there was no road, maybe not even a trail. By Rosenthal's account, he and the Marines slipped in the volcanic sand and side-stepped mines on their climb. They, too, huffed and puffed on the way up, all the while, looking out for the hidden enemy and his machine guns and snipers on Suribachi and in its caves (something I didn't have to worry about).

We all know the results of that patrol. A larger American flag was raised by six Marines, and the action was captured by a Marine motion picture cameraman and in a single shot by Joe Rosenthal on his big Speed Graphic camera. Joe readily admitted it was a lucky shot (many photos are); a second earlier or later would have resulted in a very different photo, and I would probably not have signed up for the long trip to Iwo Jima.

Several years ago when I joined our chapter of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association, we had several Iwo Jima veterans among our mem-

bers, including John Fondahl of the Fourth Division; George Martin, a Navy JASCO man; William Clark, who commanded an amphibious tractor; Ken Goulardt of the Third Division; and James Farrell, who landed his damaged B-29 on the island while the battle still raged. They are no longer with us, but our current president, Dale Cook, served in the Fourth Division and survived a grenade blast on the island; and Floyd Hunter went ashore with the Third Division. (Floyd Hunter and Goulardt also landed on Guam with the Ninth Marines.)

Our Iwo veterans, for the most part, are as humble about their service as Joe Rosenthal was about his photo. "I took the picture," he used to say, "but the Marines took Iwo Jima."

Joe was a member of our chapter until his death in 2006. The chapter renamed itself to honor him, and we placed a bronze plaque in his honor at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. We have set out to have his name on a U.S. Navy warship, the Joe Rosenthal. In doing so, we will honor him, the Marines on Iwo Jima, and all members of the Armed Forces who have served our country. When his ship is christened, and whenever it is in the news, conversations will be started about Joe Rosenthal and Iwo Jima. Each mention of the ship will be a "teaching moment" for those who do not remember his name or the battle.

The Secretary of the Navy names ships, and we have started a petition to name one for Joe. You can sign it online at www.USSJoe.org. Your signature counts, and it only takes about a minute.

Why do I consider "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" the most significant image in the history of photography? For many reasons:

- Within days of taking the photo, it ran on the front page of 200 Sunday newspapers, boosting morale of the American public.
- Rosenthal earned the Pulitzer Prize. The prize committee made an exception to its own rule by awarding his prize early.
- The photo graced a 3-cent stamp, for which people lined up in front of post offices. It was the biggest-selling US stamp for decades.
- The photo was the symbol of the Seventh War Bond Drive, raising money at a time when the country was almost broke from paying for WWII.
- The photo arguably is the most recognized and reproduced in the world.
- We've all seen the image used on thousands of items, the biggest being the 100-ton bronze Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery. (Besides the Pulitzer award and a bonus from his employer, The Associated Press, Joe never made a nickel on the memorial or any other use of the photo.)
- It has become a recognized symbol of the Marine Corps and made Rosenthal an Honorary Marine, which he considered his greatest honor. He made four amphibious landings in the Pacific. He photographed "from the front," facing the same dangers the Marines did. He was nearly killed on several occasions.
- Joe was president of the San Francisco Press Club and other organizations, earned a commendation from the Navy and numerous other awards. An Associated Press executive photo editor said, "The endless citations ... in Congress, as the basis for the Seventh War Loan drive, as the basis for numerous statue and memorial suggestions—are unprecedented in the history of news pictures."
- USMC Commandant Robert B. Neller said, "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."

Of the many battles across the Pacific, no name reverberates like Iwo Jima, and Joe Rosenthal's photo added that name to the American vocabulary. He will be forever associated with "the picture" and with the U.S. Marine Corps.

At www.USSJoe.org, you can learn more about Joe and "the picture," and follow the link to sign the petition and leave a comment. Help us spread the word and honor the photographer and the American veterans who bravely did their jobs on Iwo Jima 72 years ago. Share the story with your family and on Facebook.

I don't know how many people traveled to Iwo Jima that day in March because of Joe Rosenthal's picture, but I can proudly tell you that I did.

Bucket list: check.

A SPECIAL EMAIL MESSAGE TO IWO JIMA VETERANS

By Anne Rosenthal

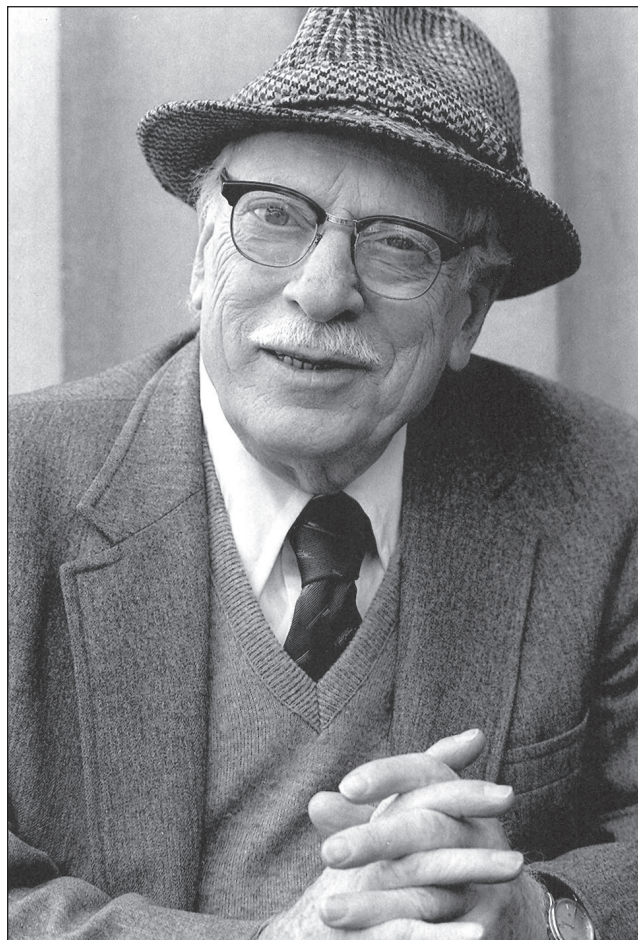
Over the years, my father had his sound bites for the press, but I had the privilege of many conversations with him that brought his experiences to life for me.

As a combat correspondent, the only weapon he had was a camera. He shadowed the fighting men and made several D-Day landings. He described the youthful faces of troops in landing boats, as they approached Iwo. He sunk-in and lost traction on the beaches as they did, trying to run through volcanic sand. On Iwo, he too breathed in the sulfurous air and dodged showers of bullets. (He never spoke to his daughter about his own injuries).

Most poignantly, he described the respect he felt for the Corps, and for its brotherhood. One of the photos he took on the beach captured it, he told me: "A young [Marine] is stopped forever in mid-action by a bullet and is cradled in the sloping sand. Just feet beyond, his brother has taken up the fight and races forward, as is his duty."

This, my father explained, is what a Marine will do. Their devotion and competence never failed to silence him in a respectful pause. In short, what my father's photograph of those determined young men in combat gear, steadfastly frozen (by his photograph in action) was shorthand for so much more.

Thank you, Iwo Marines, for your part. My father would have said it better, but he never forgot what you did on Iwo Jima.



*Joe Rosenthal in 1990
(Photo by Nancy Wong)*

NEIMEYER NAMED IJAA HISTORIAN

Dr. Charles "Charlie" Neimeyer, the director and head of the Marine Corps History Department at Quantico, has accepted an appointment to become the next historian for the Iwo Jima Association of America. This important position had been unfilled since the death of Col John Ripley.

"[Dr. Neimeyer's] credentials and reputation are impeccable," said Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret.), the executive vice president of IJAA. "We are very fortunate that he has agreed to come on board. He had said he was planning to retire and devote more time to research, writing and travel. He will be an ideal contributor to, and for, IJAA."

IWO JIMA MONUMENT WEST HOSTS EVENT TO HEAR FROM VETERANS

By Laura Dietz

In conjunction with the 2107 Iwo Jima Association of America's annual meeting held this year near Camp Pendleton, the Iwo Jima Veterans Tribute Dinner was held by the non-profit Iwo Jima Monument West, which is in year five of planning the new Iwo Jima Flag Raising monument at Camp Pendleton. Thank you, IJAA, for your support throughout.

Col Gregory Rath USMC (retired), former F-18 commander in Desert Storm, recanted his interviews with Capt Charles Sweeney, who commanded the bombing of Nagasaki. The mission that brought our U.S. forces in the Pacific home had tense moments: a wiring issue with the bomb, weather, while rescue teams had been pulled when a false report circulated that the plane had gone down.

A powerful storm Feb. 17 cancelled all SWA flights in the state, including the keynote, Kori Schake, Ph.D., who was co-editor with Gen James Mattis on the book, "Warriors and Citizens" (August 2016). While weather prevented some veterans from attending, 10 veterans participated on stage for a fascinating 45 minutes of battle stories. Their presence was what the evening was all about: the men who were there in that hell-on-earth scenario, doing whatever it took to "win." What an honor to hear from them—men of

the greatest generation who risked all for each other and country.

While it is appropriate for so many war-related memorials in the D.C. area, we as a nation fight our battles with men and women from all over the country. It is fitting that finally the most significant image of WWII that shows our Marines raising the flag represented our entire nation at war as eloquently reflected by Gen Vandegrift at the time. From coast to coast, we defend our sovereignty and our national interests. (California in WWII provided 17 percent of all war production.)

Revised numbers indicate 134,000 vehicles per day pass along on I-5—that's nearly 49 million vehicles a year. Generations yet unborn will learn the USMC legacy and recruiting will be strengthened. This symbol of our flag at war and ultimate victory is timeless and a national treasure.

Progress Update: The proposal is in review at Pendleton for six months; and we hope it will be off to the Department of Defense this summer for final signoffs. We have launched a fundraising strategy to obtain financing pledges before year's end to accelerate completion by Nov. 10, 2018.

To make a difference, donate at: <http://www.marinesoniwojima.com/>



Ten Iwo Jima veterans take the stage as part of the joint symposium to share stories of their experiences from the battle. (Photo by Raul Sifuentes)

RUSSIAN NATIVE FINDS HOME WITH MARINE AND THE USMC

By LCpl Irina Gaxiola

Editor's Note: *At the 72nd anniversary and commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima, the Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee and the Iwo Jima Association of America groups toured MCRD in San Diego, visited the MCRD Museum and had lunch at the Bay View Restaurant. Iwo Jima veterans were scattered throughout the dining area at each table with an active duty Marine seated with them. A young female LCpl was seated at the table with the group with whom I sat. She was polite, talked little initially and finally told her story. It was so interesting that I asked her to write it for this issue of Black Sands.*

I was born Irina Danilchenko on April 4, 1989, in the city of Ussuriysk, Primorsky Region, in the former U.S.S.R., now Russia, where I grew up. I graduated from Secondary School (high school) No. 14 in 2006 and then received a full scholarship to Far Eastern Federal University. While at the university, I enrolled in the foreign language education program, where I learned to speak Chinese and English, general linguistics and pedagogical methods of language education. In 2011, I graduated from Far Eastern Federal University with a bachelor of science in Chinese and English language education and a master of science in linguistics, both with high honors for having achieved a 4.0 GPA.

Following my graduation, I packed my bags and moved to Guangzhou, China, on a transient student visa. I enrolled at a local college, looking to further my knowledge of Chinese language and culture, and to learn skills that were necessary in my day-to-day life. A few months later, I started working as a freelance translator. While doing that, I had the chance to meet and translate for several CEOs and owners of companies in several cities. I eventually decided to stop traveling back between China and Russia and applied for a full-time working visa through the company that had recently hired me as an account manager.

In June 2014, I was on vacation with my family in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a popular summer destination for Russian citizens due to its visa-free status and the fact that it is a territory of the U.S. While there, the locals were celebrating the 70th anniversary of being liberated from Japanese occupation by the U.S. Marines. Out of pure coincidence, I happened to see a parade where I saw the Marine Corps Band from the III Marine Expeditionary Force, stationed in Okinawa, Japan, marching at the front of the parade. Two days later, I met one of the Marines who was marching in the parade. As it turns out, we were staying in the same hotel as the band, and it was our last day in Saipan. Coincidentally, both our flights had been delayed and had just about an entire day to do nothing. Opting to relax by the pool, we met while both of us were trying to play basketball in the water. After a while, he figured out that I spoke English and we finally had a fun, long conversation. When it was time to go, we exchanged contact information and went our separate ways. He contacted me a few days later, and we have been inseparable ever since.

In December 2014, we made plans to get married in Okinawa. We picked the date, and arranged for all the required paperwork to be married, and for our marriage to be recognized by Japan, Russia, and the U.S. Then, on Jan. 11, 2015, I left China with everything I had in two suitcases, headed for Japan. I met my then-fiancé in Tokyo, where we visited the Russian Embassy to get some paperwork, and headed to Okinawa. We were married on Jan. 13, 2015, in Ginowan, Okinawa. We spent the next week or so sightseeing around the island before I headed back to Russia to change my name and all documents while my husband was away for a training exercise in the Republic of Korea.

I returned to Okinawa in late March, and soon found a house to rent with my husband. We lived in Kin, close to Camp Hansen. While in Okinawa, I

had the opportunity to visit around the entire island, got certified in SCUBA, and even got to climb Mount Fuji in mainland Japan.

We then moved to the San Diego, Calif., area in November 2015 as my husband was being transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, to serve as the Enlisted Conductor for Marine Band San Diego. Once in the U.S., we decided that it would be very beneficial for me to become a member of the armed forces, due to several factors, as it was becoming very apparent that having no education or work experience in the U.S. was posing a difficulty in finding a job commensurate with my education level and work experience.

As soon as I received my Permanent Resident card in December 2015, we visited the Marine Corps recruiting office in Santee, Calif. I took the ASVAB and scored an 87, so I knew that I would be able to choose from a wide range of jobs. Once I swore into the Delayed Entry Program, I went to choose a job, and due to my citizenship, there was only one that was available for which I was eligible, so I selected the Service Management Enlistment Option, which consists of 4 specialties, Supply Warehouse Clerk, Supply Packaging Clerk, Transportation Management Clerk, and Food Service Specialist.

I swore in for active duty and shipped off to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., on June 6, 2016. While at Parris Island, I was assigned to Platoon 4031, November Company, 4th Recruit Training Battalion. Our graduation, which was scheduled for the morning of Friday, Sept. 2, was moved to the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 1, due to Hurricane Her-

mine being forecast to pass directly over Parris Island on Friday morning. That was the first time a recruit graduation was ever moved from Friday to Thursday because of an impending natural disaster.

Following recruit training, I attended Marine Combat Training at School of Infantry East, Camp Geiger, N.C. I was assigned to 1st platoon, Hotel Company. Upon graduation on October 18, I received a Meritorious Mast for being the platoon Honor Graduate, and second overall in the entire company. I was then transferred to Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools to attend the Enlisted Warehouse Basic Course. I graduated on Nov. 29, having earned the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 3051 – Warehouse Clerk – and was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal, and received a Certificate of Commendation for having graduated as the Honor Graduate for my class with a 100 percent GPA.

I was then stationed at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 1, 2016, where I currently assigned to the Property Control Office, Headquarters and Service Battalion, as a Warehouse Clerk. Since my arrival, I have attended: The Security Augmentation Force course where I qualified with the M9 Service Pistol, and learned to shoot shotgun, use the non-lethal baton, unarmed manipulations, and OC Spray; and the Lance Corporals Leadership and Ethics Seminar.

I am currently awaiting the approval for my naturalization as a U.S. citizen. Once approved and sworn in, I plan on applying for a lateral move into an MOS where I can better apply my education and work experience.



68th Annual Reunion of the Fifth Marine Division Association

in Kailua/Kona, Hawai'i • October 17-24, 2017

Includes a "boots on the ground" tour of Camp Tarawa
Registration deadline is August 15

Questions? Email Kathy Painton at kathypainton@hotmail.com.
Download the Spring/Summer 2017 issue of the FMDA newsletter, *The Spearhead*, for more details at <http://www.talespress.com/archive.html>

WWII VETERANS, GUESTS REMEMBER THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

By Staff Sgt Valerie Eppler, III Marine Expeditionary Force

IWO TO, Japan – At the base of Mount Suribachi on Iwo To, among the most iconic places in Marine Corps history, U.S. Marine, Army and Air Force veterans and families, alongside U.S. and Japanese leaders and other distinguished guests, gathered March 25 to commemorate fallen service members during the 72nd Reunion of Honor ceremony.

The ROH ceremony offers active and veteran service members and their families an opportunity to celebrate the allied relationship between the U.S. and Japan over the last 72 years in which they have worked together to advance common interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

In a speech to the attendees of the ceremony, the Commander of Marine Forces Pacific LtGen David H. Berger said, “We didn’t come here only to see once again what this volcanic island feels like. We came here today for this reunion to think about the past and ask what we must do to prevent that type of horrific battle from ever happening again.”

The alliance serves as a model of the power of reconciliation; former adversaries who became unwavering allies and who now work together to advance common interests in the region.

Berger continued, “We have learned from that epic battle. We have moved ahead together, as an alliance, serving shoulder to shoulder around the world.”

While the number of surviving servicemen from the infamous WWII battle are dwindling,



Iwo Jima veteran Francis Jackson participates in the 72nd Reunion of Honor commemorative service on Iwo To, Japan March 25, 2017. Jackson was one of eight veterans in attendance alongside American and Japanese distinguished guests, both military and civilian. This event presented the opportunity for the U.S. and Japanese people to mutually remember and honor thousands of service members who fought and died on the hallowed grounds of Iwo Jima.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Valerie Eppler)

those who were at the ceremony had an air of reverence and humility about them. They appeared occasionally distant and reflective about their time spent here more than 70 years ago.

However, the eight Iwo Jima veterans were also the stars of the show, as they were constantly surrounded by active duty servicemen and women of all ranks who said they wanted to stand near the greatness of these veterans. The veterans were happy to share tales of their days as active duty members and what being on Iwo To meant to them.

Iwo Jima veteran Marine Corps Sgt Edwin Hunsberger said he felt a variety of emotions upon returning to the island.

"It looks so different," said Hunsberger, now 90 years old, who was here when he was just 18. "There wasn't any vegetation when we were here, and this could be a completely different place from the one that I remember."

Hunsberger, along with several other veterans, said that if they had been asked about returning to Iwo Jima years ago, they never thought they would have returned.

The friendship that has developed surpasses the treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan. The two countries have become invaluable allies over the last 72 years.

Ichiro Aisawa, a member of the House of Representatives of Japan, said during his speech, "I am deeply moved to see, on this very island where the fierce battle was fought, veterans of the two countries and their families transcend the history of more than 70 years ago and reunite and reaffirm their friendship."

The alliance serves as a model of the power of reconciliation; former adversaries who became unwavering allies and who now work together to advance common interests in the region.

Aisawa said, "Japan and the U.S., which fought against each other 72 years ago, are now working hand-in-hand to achieve international peace and stability. I believe such cooperation consoles the souls of the soldiers from both countries who fought and died on this island."

Reprinted from the official website of the USMC with permission.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM IJAA BOARD MEETING

Here are highlights from the Feb. 17 Iwo Jima Association of America Board of Directors meeting at the Grand Palisades Resort and Hotel in Carlsbad, Calif.:

Treasurer Doug Meny has stepped down from his position because of his new employment and workload. The board continues to value his support and acknowledged his good service. David Scott, a strong supporter of IJAA, was elected to the board and agreed to become the new treasurer. Also, Ray Elliott, who had been acting director of communications, was officially approved for the role.

IJAA President and CEO LtGen Norman Smith, USMC (Ret.), discussed a recent meeting at the Pentagon regarding USMC support for the upcoming symposium in Carlsbad and for the Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima. A brief discussion was held iterating IJAA's status as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The JAG was curious regarding the government providing ground transportation on Iwo Jima for civilians. The issue was closed, given the age of the vets. USMC was advised of the Japanese and U.S. transportation available for the vets and their escorts to Mt. Suribachi and to the Reunion of Honor ceremonies. The Headquarters, Marine Corps support was strong, as indicated by the numerous commanding generals and staff present.

Director of Business Development Raul "Art" Sifuentes provided information on fundraising efforts, such as merchandise sales and past Marine Corps Marathons. Both shall be continued this year. When asked about the sources of IJAA income, Sifuentes listed merchandise sales, marathon fundraising, a GoFundMe site, membership dues and donations from solicitations to membership. An outreach program is underway to visit communities and provide presentations regarding Iwo Jima, the symposia and Reunions of Honor.

The 2018 symposium site was under consideration. The desire was to move the symposium between the southern parts of the East Coast, Midwest and West Coast to ensure warm climates and weather for the aging vets and avoid the possible problematic weather on the East Coast during the winter. Sites under consideration for 2018 were New Orleans and Dallas/Ft. Worth, among others. It was later determined by the board that the symposium will be held in Arlington, Va. The Reunion of Honor is scheduled for March 20-27, 2018.

DALE QUILLEN: A LIFE IN DEFENSE OF OTHERS

By J.R. Lind



Marine Vietnam veteran Clinton Butler (left), son of 1/27 Battalion Commander LtCol John Butler who was a Navy Cross recipient killed in action on March 5, 1945; his wife, Leigh Butler (center); and Dale Quillen (right), who served on Iwo Jima with the War Dog Platoon with the Third Regiment, Third Marine Division, at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2005 for the dedication of its War Dog Memorial. The statue is a replica of the original, which was placed at the War Dog Cemetery on Naval Base Guam. (Photo courtesy of Clinton Butler)

NASHVILLE—Mike Flanagan took a job alongside Dale Quillen on a Friday.

The prominent defense attorney said he had to drive down to Dayton for an appearance hearing in Rhea County the following Monday and told Flanagan to come along so they could discuss business.

But when they got there, the judge said this was no simple first appearance. It was, in fact, time to proceed with jury selection. Quillen felt rooked, and told the judge he was in no way ready for trial. The judge, having none of it, said if the defense wasn't ready to proceed, they could spend the weekend in the Rhea County Jail for contempt.

"Mr. Quillen, what are we going to do?" Flanagan asked.

"I fought at Iwo Jima. I'm not afraid of the Rhea County Jail."

"But, Mr. Quillen, I wasn't at Iwo Jima!"

Sensing the judge wouldn't back down, Quillen told him that if he was to be charged with contempt, he'd need to find counsel and requested the hearing on the charge be postponed. The judge, perhaps a bit impressed, agreed. Quillen and Flanagan drove to Chattanooga, found an attorney, and the whole matter got sorted out.

Quillen died Aug. 13, 2016, at 91, another character from a wilder time in the city's legal history gone, another hero from the Greatest Generation gone.

Born in the wilds of the Smoky Mountains, Quillen left home in 1943—at just 17—to join the Marines. As a member of the Third Division, he helped free Guam from Japanese occupation and fought at Iwo Jima, part of a group of leathernecks teamed up with specially trained dogs to root out Japanese soldiers from tunnels and caves in the hell of the South Pacific.

Quillen earned a Purple Heart during his service—one of his hospital mates was Sterling Hayden,

who earned fame for playing, among others, Jack D. Ripper in “Dr. Strangelove” and corrupt police captain Mark McCluskey in “The Godfather.”

After his discharge, Quillen came home, eventually winding up at the YMCA Night Law School in Nashville, from which he graduated in 1956. He made an early name for himself by crafting a pioneering defense for bootlegging—considering where he was reared, a perfect match—and other such mischievous vices. His first case involved an out-of-town businessman caught up in some sort of shenanigans at the Merchants Hotel. In a nod to that, Quillen’s 90th birthday party was held in the upstairs dining room at the name’s-the-same restaurant there.

He grew to be well respected on both sides of the bar, earning a reputation for fair dealing and a commitment to the rights of the accused. This respect was perhaps no better manifested than in 1978, when he faced federal charges because he agreed to represent infamous Nashville auto thief and jail-escape artist Rabbit Veach (who himself died in 2016), with the defendant under an assumed name. Veach was found out, but not because Quillen ever gave up the ruse. He asserted that attorney-client privilege was inviolate and that he had no obligation to reveal the actual identity of his client. A federal jury, after hearing testimony from ethics experts, agreed and acquitted Quillen. Quillen’s attorney in the matter? James Neal, former Watergate special prosecutor and a frequent adversary of Quillen as the U.S. attorney in Nashville.

But Quillen was no saint, either. In 1992, he

made headlines for an elevator altercation with his then-wife’s divorce attorney (this was divorce No. 3 for Quillen), William Willis. Quillen said Willis hit him in the groin with his briefcase and bit his finger. For his trouble, Willis came out of the elevator with a broken nose and cut-up face. Quillen, then 68, still had the fighting spirit of a Marine, even if it was occasionally unrestrained.

With Quillen died a man who was a hero to his country and a true character of the legal community—his memorial service at the veterans cemetery drew plenty of judges and fellow members of the defense bar, as well as several current and former district attorneys-general. But Nashville lost something, too: the old-school courthouse lawyer, a now all-too-infrequent species.

Law school graduates who want the fortunes of the corporate firm spend too much time crafting briefs in backrooms, and when they do head to court, find themselves nervous at asking a judge face-to-face for even the most mundane requests. Others, who want careers in politics, opt for the DA’s office. Rarer every year is the new lawyer willing to stand up for the accused, spending untold hours in general sessions and at the jail, providing a vigorous defense.

Dale Quillen vigorously defended Americans in the South Pacific. And then for six decades, he did it again and again.

Originally published in the Nashville Scene, Dec. 29, 2016. Reprinted with permission. Lind is Quillen’s grandson-in-law.

USS INDIANAPOLIS 72ND ANNIVERSARY REUNION

July 27-30, 2017

Hyatt Regency Hotel - Indianapolis, IN

The public is welcome to attend some of the events, including a visit to the USS Indianapolis Monument and Museum by the reunion group on the afternoon of July 28; a book signing and presentations throughout the day on July 29; and a memorial service honoring the final sailing crew on the morning of July 30.

Questions? Contact Jim Belcher Jr. at jimbelcherjr@gmail.com or call 540-256-1676.

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED WITH MILITARY MULTI-TOOL

Haddonfield, N.J., resident Scott “Bull” Durham never served in the military, but he wanted to show his gratitude to those who served with more than the perfunctory “thank you for your service.” After giving it some careful and thoughtful consideration, Durham came up with a plan in 2014 he felt good about and called it “Honor Your Hero.” He took the idea to Judi Tapper, the president of the Department of New Jersey Gold Star Mothers.

To honor and thank the fallen heroes and veterans for their service, and the Gold Star Mothers and relatives for their loss, Durham now gives each one a multipurpose knife with the veteran’s name and service information engraved on metallic strips on the double handle. The 60-year-old Tennessee native paid for the first 500 himself at a cost of \$35 each. He still provides them gratis, but is now accepting contributions as the project gathers momentum. Initially, he planned to give 10,000 knives, then raised it to 25,000 and now says he won’t stop until he given 100,000.

“All my family served and I have always had a love for the military and appreciate those who serve and sacrifice for me, my family and millions of other Americans,” the district manager for a property insurance company said in a 2015 brochure. “I got this idea and got major discounts from vendors. The program has



Scott “Bull” Durham

gotten out of control, but in a good way because donations are flowing in from all over the country, and I’m getting enough to keep the endeavor going.”

While the project has gone nationwide, Durham also travels to battlefields where the veterans he honors have served. He recently went with Military Historical Tours and the Iwo Jima Association of American to Guam and on to Iwo Jima to attend the annual “Reunion of Honor” between the Japanese and the Americans on the island where so many of each country died or were wounded.

“Thanks to (the MHT staff),” Durham emailed from Tokyo where he continued his trip, “I just probably had the most memorable eight days of my life.”

At this point, Durham has personally delivered, as he did on the RoH tour, or sent the Swiss Army-like knife keepsake to more than 4,500 veterans or family members. Jim Kelly, a 95-year-old Marine Iwo Jima veteran from Urbana, Ill., who spent 36 days on Iwo Jima, ordered his knife as soon as he heard it was available and sent a contribution as soon as he saw the knife.

“It’s an incredible keepsake to



pass along to my family,” Kelly said.

The knife has been given to all 67 living Medal of Honor recipients; more than 800 Gold Star families—including Chris Kyle’s family, the soldier portrayed in the movie, “American Sniper,” who was killed while trying to help a Marine veteran of the Iraq war; celebrities who served; golf legend Arnold Palmer, who served in the Coast Guard in the 1950s; POW and Vietnam veteran Arizona Sen. John McCain; many World War II veterans, including former President George H.W. Bush and his son, former President George W. Bush, and more than 400 Vietnam veterans.

Durham has received donations ranging from \$10 to \$1,000 to cover the cost of each knife, which has a three-inch blade, pliers, screwdriver, bottle opener, file, saw and more and is presented in a tin box, accompanied by a handwritten note, telling people how much he appreciates the selfless sacrifice they made for the country.

“I’ve made them for 18-year-olds all the way up to a 103-year-old,” Durham said. “Seeing how much this means to veterans and our families of the fallen, I wish I’d started this endeavor 30 years ago.”

If you would like to have a knife made in your name or a relative’s name, or want to make a donation, you can contact Bull Durham at s.durham2004@comcast.net, call him at 609-332-5030, or write him at Scott “Bull” Durham, 146 Hopkins Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. To learn more Google “Bull Durham Knives.”

This poem was written by my daughter after her first trip to Iwo, when she was just 16 years old. (She was Division 2 Young Marine of the Year in 2013. She returned to the island the next year as the National Young Marine of the Year, then went on to attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. She was recently selected as the Regimental Commander for this fall.) She had the blessing of becoming friends with John “Top” Farritor during the 2013 trip and wrote this in his honor.

*Lynne Arnold, Unit Commander
Northern KY Young Marines*

A POEM

By D.J. Richter

*My heart aches for the silent, unfathomable suffering
of this humble hero.*

*A false paradise of recovering vegetation surrounds us,
struggling*

*to hide the scars and memories that two nations
not long forgot.*

*Just as cartridges creep up through the sand, so does
the anguish of those who spent them - sentenced
to a sulfuric eternity on this hellish tract of land,
alone but in the minds of those who escaped.*

*Save this one day, no, one day each year,
where the soon to be redeemed return to pay
a final memorial to those lost long ago.*

*At three and ninety, I watch him in the sand
struggling to regain the young cowboy
that at three and twenty so faithfully stormed,
rifle in hand.*

*This false paradise, this hell, refusing to relinquish
both the living and the dead.*

*The black sand will never be covered,
the howling hearts never silenced.*

*His memories, once imprinted by blood,
are now refreshed in life.*

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75 YEARS LATER, WE STILL REMEMBER THE 'BOYS OF '41'

By Ray Elliott

OAHU, Hawaii — The Boys of '41—the Pearl Harbor survivors—were given a rousing welcome and awe-inspiring honor for their service on “Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day,” held on Dec. 7, 2016, and throughout the week with ceremonies, interviews, parades and thank-yous on Oahu, Hawaii, by thousands of residents and people visiting for the occasion.

Sir Tim Rice, producer and lyricist for “From Here to Eternity: The Musical,” came from London with a touching number from the show, “The Boys of '41,” performed by an exceptional group of 22 musicians at the Dec. 3 opening gala, “For Love of Country, Pass It On,” at the Pacific Aviation Museum Pearl Harbor on Ford Island:

“There’s thunder in the morning
There’s a menace in the skies
There’s a slaughter in the sunlight
A murderous disguise
A cannon of destruction
For ev’ry mother’s son

Who now become the Boys of Forty One. ...”

The theme of the Dec. 1-11 gathering for remembering the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was “Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future.” One of the members of the Military Historical Tours group that was in Hawaii for a week of the commemoration was filmmaker Arnold Shapiro. He said the only other event he could think of “that would be as meaningful as being at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 75 years later with others who were there, would be at Gettysburg 75 years later with others who were there the day Lincoln spoke. It was a special experience I’ll always remember.”

Ninety-five-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor Stanley Chlipala of Denver, who was on the destroyer USS Perry on Dec. 7, 1941, wasn’t at Gettysburg, but his daughter Elizabeth was quoted in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser saying that, as a young man, her father got to shake the hand of a Civil War veteran.

Shapiro’s and Chlipala’s comments put the occasion into perspective for the many young people who attended the events with their parents and grandparents.

In a way, that was true for one member of the MHT tour group, Chief Warrant Officer Allan G. MacKay Jr., USNR (Ret.) and president of the Mt. Vernon, Wash., Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, North Cascade Chapter No. 5. MacKay was 2 1/2 years old and his mother and father, a Navy chief, lived in a four-plex on Ford Island near the battleship, USS Maryland, and outboard of the USS Oklahoma.

“Dad had gone to work at the Radio Communications Building near the airfield,” MacKay said. “Mom and I were sleeping when the attack began. We were awakened, and she yelled at a neighbor to see what was going on. My only memory is standing in bed, my hands on the windowsill and looking outside and seeing the whole world on fire and everything is in color. The nightmare is always the same. That is all I remember. My mother suffered ‘shell shock,’ what today we call PTSD, and couldn’t stand low-flying airplanes or watching war movies.

“When she ran for safety with me, she said she grabbed two bottles of milk and a blanket. Machine gun bullets from the Japanese planes came through the walls and window, and a bullet went through her nightgown. She hid with me in a small concrete basement room, and bullets came in and ricocheted around us, burning her chest and her arm. She said we were found by a search party around three o’clock in the afternoon and taken to the Bachelor’s Officers Quarters.”

At the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Punchbowl, people visited the graves of relatives and friends. I stopped at the marker of Lt-Col John Augustus Butler, Navy Cross recipient and commander of First Battalion, 27th Regiment, Fifth Marine Division, and his wife, Emma Denise, parents of Marine veteran and current IJAA Advisory



The USS Arizona Memorial was the site of the Blackened Canteen Ceremony, which has become an inspiration for peaceful understanding and reconciliation. (Photo by Ray Elliott)

board member and president of the Fifth Marine Division Association, John Butler. He was 5 years old when his father was killed.

On up the Punchbowl hill, I met four Rosie the Riveters: pipe welder Marian Wynn, draftsman Marian Sousa, and journeyman welders Kay Morrison and Agnes Moore. All worked at one of the Kaiser shipyards in Richmond, Calif., during the war. All were in their 90s, and all later rode down Kalakaua Avenue in the parade on the evening of Dec. 7, waving and beaming.

But just before boarding the shuttle at the bottom of the hill at the Punchbowl, the group spoke with a Pearl Harbor survivor, Don Ollom of Osakis, Minn. I heard someone say he was an Iwo Jima veteran and asked him what outfit he'd been in.

"D-2-28," he said.

"I know a man who was in D-2-28," I said. "Bob Mueller."

"No s---," he said. "You know Bob, the Mighty Mo? He was one of my best friends. We owned a car together. Where is he now? He was from Omaha, but I heard he moved to California 20 years ago."

I called Bob in California that evening and told him I'd met one of his buddies. Mueller had the same reaction, told me the same thing and said he hadn't seen Ollom since the war was over but would be in touch now.

Vietnam veteran helicopter pilot and Distinguished Flying Cross recipient John Powell, a longtime, knowledgeable and personable director for MHT, also led the group on a tour of the USS Mis-

souri, where the formal surrender was signed by the Japanese on Sept. 2, 1945.

On the morning of Dec. 6, we left the hotel at 5:15 a.m. for the USS Arizona to attend the Blackened Canteen Ceremony that memorializes a bombing raid over Shizuoka, Japan, on the night of June 20, 1945, when two Army Air Force B-29s from the 314th Bomb Wing collided and killed 23 crewmen.

In the same raid, more than 2,000 Shizuoka citizens also died. Dr. Hiroya Sugano, who was a child at the time, and his family lived through the raid. He and a man named, Fukumatsu Itoh, visited the crash site the next morning. Itoh pulled two airmen who were still alive out of the wreckage, but they soon died. Itoh also picked up a blackened canteen, which appeared to have the handprint of the man who had owned it.

Itoh, a devout Buddhist, buried the American crewmen alongside the residents who had also been killed. He was condemned by the local citizenry, but he began conducting an annual ceremony to honor those who had died: A silent prayer was offered and bourbon whiskey was poured in the crash site memorial as an offering to the spirits of the fallen, both Japanese and American.

As an adult, Sugano eventually met Itoh and was greatly impressed and promised to carry on the tradition, which he has done since 1972. He has attended the Dec. 7 commemoration at Pearl Harbor for the last 25 years. The battered canteen has be-

Continued

Continued from Page 25

come an inspiration for peace as Sugano and others pour the bourbon from the battered canteen into the water over the sunken USS Arizona.

The next morning, the group again left the hotel at 5:15 a.m. and inched along toward Pearl Harbor after the shuttle hit the traffic and took an hour and a half to go the 12-15 miles to Kilo Pier, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickman, where the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration was held from 7:45-9:45 a.m. with nearly 4,000 people in attendance.

The impressive two-hour ceremony began with a moment of silence, during which the USS Halsey passed by the USS Arizona Memorial, followed by a missing-man flyover; the presentation of colors; the National Anthem and the Hawai'i Pono'i, the state song of Hawaii; a Hawaiian blessing; a prayer for

peace; guest speakers; keynote speaker Adm Harry B. Harris Jr., Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; wreath presentations; benediction; a rifle salute by the Marine Corps; Echo Taps and postlude by the Pacific Fleet Band; a vintage plane fly-by; and a tug-boat water tribute.

In his keynote speech, Adm Harris said, "You can bet that the men and women that we honor today—and those who died that fateful morning 75 years ago—never took a knee and never failed to stand whenever they heard our National Anthem played."

Editor's Note: *If you haven't traveled with MHT or attended one of the IJAA symposia and have an interest in military sites and historical information of World War II, Korea or Vietnam, I highly recommend it.*

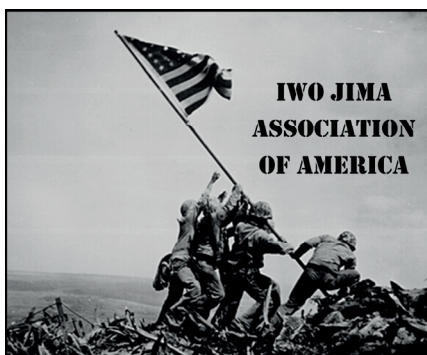
GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR IJAA BENEFITS IWO VETS

On May 3, Scott "Bull" Durham hosted the first 2017 Semi-Annual Iwo Jima Association of America Golf Tournament at the prestigious Jasna Polana Golf Course near Princeton, N.J. Durham gathered 24 area golfers (below) to raise more than \$3,500 for the IJAA. These proceeds will go toward funding Iwo Jima veterans' return to the island for the Reunion of Honor ceremony.

The weather was perfect to play on this beautiful and pristine golf course. Local businessmen and vets enjoyed great camaraderie together—"including single and double amputees who played second to no one in distance and skill," Durham reported. He has tentatively schedule the second 2017 semi-annual golf tournament for Sept. 20 in the same area.

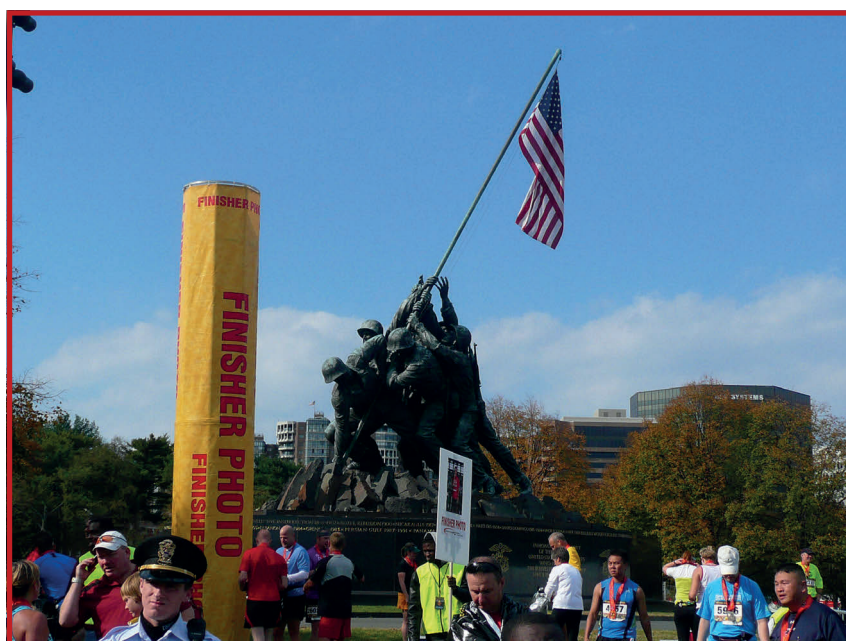
Durham also donates personalized multi-tools, complete with a veteran's name and service information, to every veteran who requests one or that he happens to find. (*Read more on page 22.*)





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