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Quantico, VA 22134

Www.IwoJimaAssociation.Org

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Volume 12 issue 1

Spring 2020



# THE BLACK SANDS

The Publication of the Iwo Jima Association of America

**www.IwoJimaAssociation.**

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Help your Iwo Jima Association of America by asking your local businesses, tourist, convention or recreation activities to advertise in the *BLACK SANDS*. Following is a suggested note to send to potential advertisers.

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Note: Find ad contract on page 17 of this *BLACK SANDS* issue.

Dear: \_\_\_\_\_

The Iwo Jima Association of America semi-annual newsletter, *BLACK SANDS*, reaches a world-wide audience of active duty, retired , and veteran Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Soldiers, Coast Guard and families. The readers often enjoy travel, leisure, outdoor, and hometown activities along with brand loyalty. Please consider advertising in the *BLACK SANDS*. A contract agreement is attached for your convenience. Thank you.

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) is dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history of the battle of Iwo Jima for future generations. IJAA sponsors two educational and historical symposiums, in the Washington, DC locale and on the island of Guam. The symposium on Guam includes the “Reunion of Honor” memorial service on Iwo Jima, jointly held with the Iwo Jima Association of Japan (IJAJ). The primary purpose of these symposia is to honor those veterans on both sides who sacrificed so much, and to educate the younger generations on the history of the battle. in particular and World War II in general.

# THE BLACK SANDS

The Publication of the Iwo Jima Association of America

Spring 2020 VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2



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I hereby make application for membership in the Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc. If applying for full membership, I certify by my signature that I am either a veteran of the battle or a direct descendant of a veteran of the battle.

☐ Full Membership—Iwo Jima Veteran \$15.00

☐ Full Membership—Legacy Member \$25.00

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Phone Email

Unit served with on Iwo Jima & Dates

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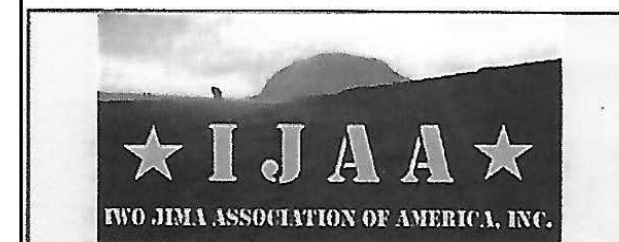
☐ Check ☐ American Express

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website: www.IwoJimaAssociation.org  
A 501(c) (3) veterans organization

IJAA RAFFLE TICKETS
\$20 each or 6 for \$100

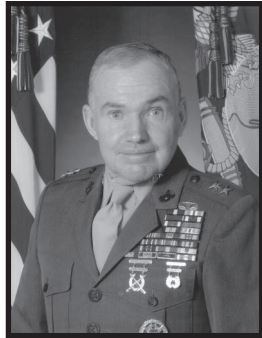
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Table with 2 columns: Ticket Description and Return This Stub. Contains 6 identical rows for 2020 IJAA Fund Raiser Tickets.

President's Message

MajGen David Bice, USMC (Ret)



Greetings,

The 2020 Reunion and Symposium commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima was an overwhelming success! Fifty Iwo Jima Veterans joined us along with over 500 others to recognize the bravery, sacrifice, and post war reconciliation demonstrated by all of those who fought in that iconic battle. We were all treated to some of the most touching experiences in hearing the stories of camaraderie during the battle and witnessing the expressions on the faces of the veterans seeing the first flag raised on Mt Suribachi at the Museum of the Marine Corps. It was truly an honor to be in the presence of greatness, none more so than Iwo Jima Medal of Honor recipient Chief Warrant Officer 4 Woody Williams, USMC (Ret). Woody is such a gracious and humble man and we are so grateful to him and all of the Iwo Jima Veterans for their presence. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David Berger and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Troy Black both recognized the 75th Anniversary with a ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington and by their attendance at the banquet.

A special thanks goes out to all of those who worked so hard to make the reunion such a success, including the IJAA officers, board members, advisors, and the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes. Regrettably, the spread of the COVID-19 corona virus this spring caused the postponement of the Joint US-Japan Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima in March to a later date.

We are pleased to announce that Linda Griffin has joined us as IJAA Secretary and MajGen John Ewers, USMC (Ret) has become IJAA's General Counsel. We welcome them both and look forward to working with them in supporting IJAA's mission.

Finally, I want to thank the many individual and corporate sponsors who made it possible for Iwo Jima Veterans to join us at the reunion and to plan a trip back to Iwo Jima. Your financial support and assistance worked wonders in bringing these heroes together. I have heard from so many families in how getting together with buddies, shipmates, and crew members from so many years ago brought joy to these veterans' lives. Thank You!

Semper Fidelis,
David F. Bice
MajGen USMC (Ret)
President



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

26 February 2020

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Crystal City, Arlington, VA

Call to Order Chairman LtGen Norman Smith called the IJAA 26 Feb 2020 Board of Directors Meeting to order at 1800.

Opening Remarks LtGen Smith welcomed all and thanked Shayne Jarosz, Art Sifuentes, and the entire Gala team for their efforts planning the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima Commemorative Symposium and up-coming Iwo Jima trip. He remarked we would move through the agenda briskly in order to make dinner by 2000.

Roll Call Executive Director Art Sifuentes called the roll. In attendance were LtGen Norman Smith, MajGen David Bice, Bill Davis, Gene Colabatistto, David Fields, Linda Griffin, Ivan Hammond, Shayne Jarosz, Kevin Jarvis, Laura Leppert, Bill Rockey, David Scott, Art Sifuentes, and Bill Smith. A quorum was deemed present.

General Smith announced that Col Wiedhahn's wife, Jane had undergone surgery, and all were praying for her. There was no recent news other than the surgery went well.

General Smith thanked Gene Colabatistto, Development Committee Chair, for his efforts in developing the financial plan for the Symposium's Gala.

General Smith prevailed on board members to assist as much as possible with any pop-up issues with our veterans and guests particularly during the Gala, e.g. locating their banquet tables.

Cont.

Approval of 30 October 2019 Board Meeting Minutes General Smith requested a motion be made to approve the 30 October 2019 Board of Director's Meeting Minutes. A motion was made to approve, seconded, and voted with no dissensions.

MajGen Bice reported a two-year renewal consulting contract had been signed between Art Sifuentes, IJAA and MHT.

All IJAA arrears payments to MHT will be resolved in the coming weeks.

Treasurer's Report David Scott, Treasurer reported his team of Wes Elder and Art Sifuentes had completed a detailed 2019 Profit and Loss Statement delineating Budget vs Actual. Copies were provided at the Board meeting. Additionally, an IRS Form 990 has been prepared and is ready for submission. IRS Form 990 is available upon request.

David Fields remarked he had a number of questions on the expense and budget entries, membership income vs expenditures, ads, etc. Given the limited time allocated for this Board meeting, General Smith directed any attendant questions be addressed by interested individuals in a side bar.

Development Committee Gene Colabatistto reported pledges received for the Gala totaled \$207K. It was anticipated that 93-94% percent of the pledges will be paid. To date all but \$40K has been collected.

The Silent Auction will be displayed in the banquet reception area. Non-Gala donations total \$43K. Projections include Gala, Symposium, and Reunion of Honor. It is expected, after expenses, to clear approximately \$122K. The majority of collections came from those donating at the \$5K level.

# IJAA's 2020 Fund Raiser

## Three Great Prizes

### 1st Prize\* M-1 CARBINE



M1 Carbine—U.S. Rifle .30 Caliber (7.62 mm) the carbine used in WWII, Korea & Vietnam.



\* - Winner must comply with all State & Federal Firearm Regulations

### 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 19 Mar 2020.



IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (IJAA) MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

IJAA Polo Shirt



Colors--Navy Blue/Red/White/Green  
Price: \$40

Shirt Sizes: (Mens') S/M/XL/2XL/2XL

No: \_\_\_\_\_ Sizes: \_\_\_\_\_

(Ladies') P/S/M/L/XL

No: \_\_\_\_\_ Sizes: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Gift Boxes \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Medallions \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Ball Caps \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Coins \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Patches \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Stickers \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Video costs \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$5 for Shipping + \$5

Total cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Iwo Jima Memorial Display Box  
w/iconic Rosenthal photo & Black Sand Case



Price: \$20

Flag Raising Commemorative Medallion  
Pewter w/Black Sand Capsule



Price: \$25

IJAA Challenge Coin



Price: \$10

IJAA Patch



Price: \$5

IJAA Ball Cap



Colors-Green/Red/Blue Price: \$15

IJAA Sticker



Price: \$3

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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All proceeds go to funding Iwo Vets' return to Iwo Jima.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - Cont. from Page 5

The Silent Auction will be displayed in the banquet reception area.

On 23 February, the Washington Capitals hockey game honored CWO Hershel "Woody" Williams, USMC (Ret), last surviving WWII Pacific Theater Medal of Honor awardee. In attendance were 20,000 fans joined by 4 million viewers watching on TV.

US House and Senate Resolutions commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima were signed on Capitol Hill 13 February. Congressman Ken Calvert submitted the House Resolution. Copies of the Resolutions were separately sent to all Board members as well as made available at the meeting.

Kudos were expressed to Fred Lash for his media outreach regarding the commemorative events, particularly for getting the 75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration on the front page of the *Washington Post*.

Membership Report Art Sifuentes reported The IJAA member roster lists 2391 individual members. It appears that we have a large number of non-renewals, who join for the Iwo Jima tour, as required, but do not renew. Automatic notifications via email are sent out annually. An effort will soon be underway to cull out those who have not renewed over the last two years in order to purify the roster.

Current membership of Iwo Jima Veterans numbers 339.

Fundraising Noreen O'Leary is taking on IJAA's fundraising effort for the IJAA Marine Corps Marathons. She is asking all Half Marathon runners to raise a minimum \$300 each for their May run and participation in the October Marathon

Cont.

All Board members were asked to spread the word and get Marathon participants, sponsors and donors.

The West Coast IJAA is folding its tent. Shayne Jarosz said IJAA purchased an ad in the West Coast 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal to generate additional IJAA members.

Symposium Several buses, departing at 1300, are being provided from the hotel to the Marine Corps Monument for attendance at the Commandant's 1400 Commemoration Event. The Hospitality Room must be vacated by midnight. The maximum number of attendees for the Gala will be 550. Everyone will be seated in the main ballroom.

American Airlines is providing free roundtrip airfare for all participating Iwo Jima Veterans and a travel companion.

Governance Committee Bonnie Haynes requested to step down as head of the Governance Committee, but will remain on the Board. Dave Fields has agreed to chair the Governance Committee and update the IJAA By-Laws. Bill Smith will be an advisor to the Governance Committee.

Virginia State Law requires a non-profit corporation to have a Secretary. Linda Griffin has volunteered to fill that position. A motion was made, seconded, and passed for Linda Griffin to become Secretary.

MajGen Ewers has agreed to be IJAA's General Consul. His final USMC assignment was as the SJA to the Commandant. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for General Ewers to be the IJAA General Counsel.



Media Report Fred Lash and Will Donaldson monitor the website. Will Donaldson created the Wall of Honor on our website, which has raised \$2K-3K to date.

A 75<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Book will be published later this year following the Reunion of Honor. Heather Briley-Schmidt is taking photographs and will edit the book. Other 75<sup>th</sup> Commemorative events under consideration are an IJAA Day at a Washington Nationals home game as well as a 75<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Golf Tournament

2020 Reunion of Honor The Chairman JCS, CNO, the Commandant, LtGen Smith, and MajGen Bice will attend and are slated to speak. Twelve Congressmen and Senators will be flying in on a Congressional flight. Sixteen Iwo Jima Veterans will be participating. IJAA is coordinating with III MEF regarding the Coronavirus impact. (NOTE: The Reunion of Honor was postponed to Fall 2020; date to be determined).

Ms Laura Leppert brought a picture of Iwo Jima signed by two MOH recipients. She requested the money raised from its sale go to Daughters of WW II. No discussion ensued.

As there was no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. Meeting ended at 1857.

Respectfully submitted,

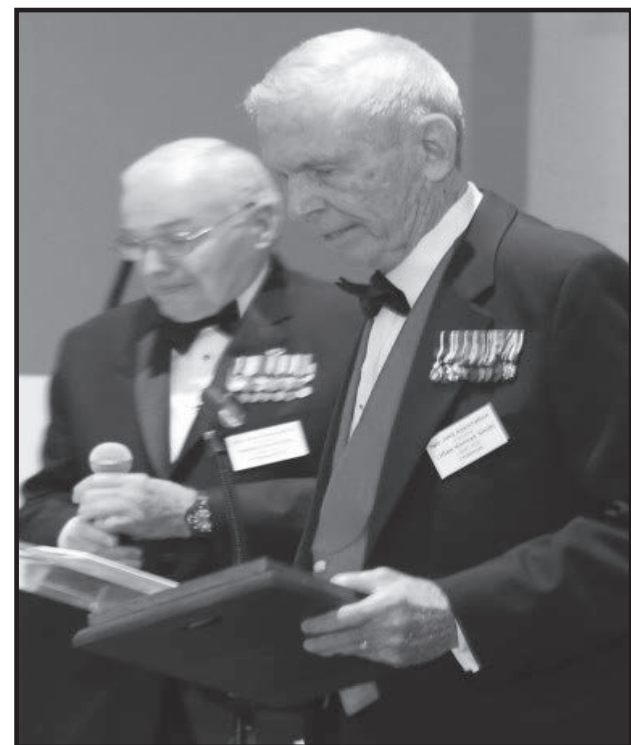
*Linda Bussey Griffin*

Linda Bussey Griffin

***Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem. – Ronald Reagan***



Throughout the reunion week we saw an outpouring of love from the families who joined their dad, grandfather, friend throughout the 75th. Anniversary of Iwo Jima celebration. Families made it possible for their Iwo Jima hero could be present. We say thank you— YOU warmed our hearts.



LtGen Norman Smith, IJAA Board Chairman, presented the General Larry Snowden Peace and Reconciliation Award from MajGen David Bice, IJAA President.

## BLACK SANDS ADVERTISING CONTRACT

The *Black Sands* is the primary internal information vehicle for the Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc. It is mailed nationwide and overseas to Association Members, major Marine Corps Commands, supporters, and advertisers. Please consider purchasing an ad. It provides funds for Iwo Vet's to return to Iwo

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Horizontal 1/2 Page (7 1/2" X 5 1/16")	\$250.00
Vertical 1/2 Page (3 3/4" X 10 1/8" )	\$250.00
One-Quarter Page (3 3/4" X 5 1/16")	\$150.00
One-Eighth Page (3 3/4 X 2- 1/2)	\$ 90.00

### Single Issue Advertising Rates

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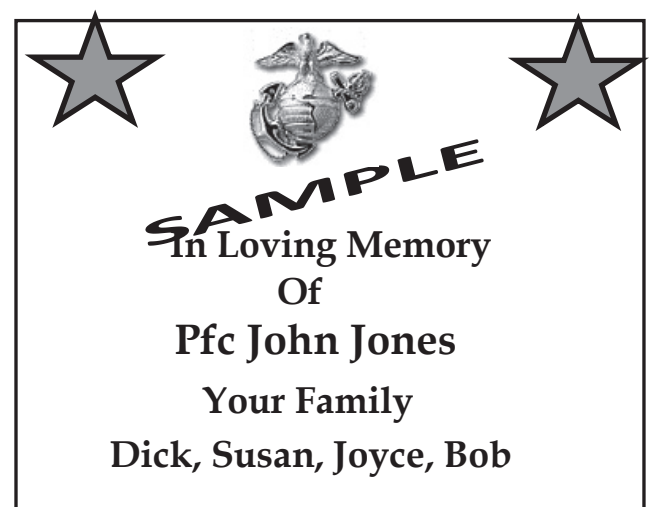
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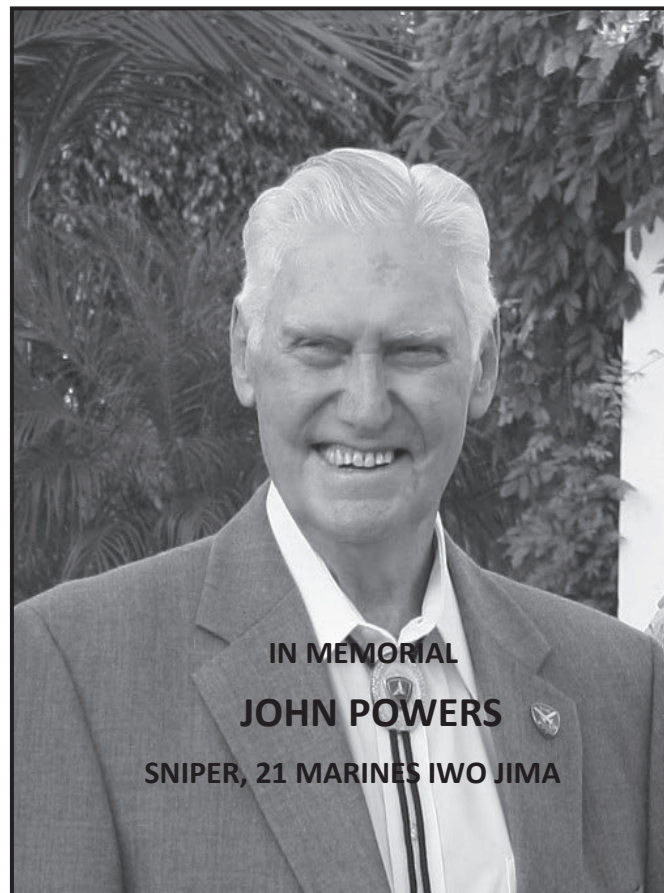
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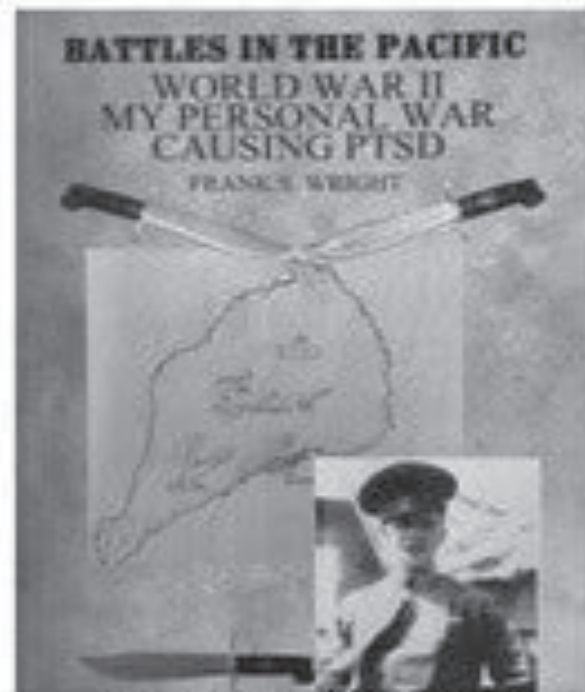
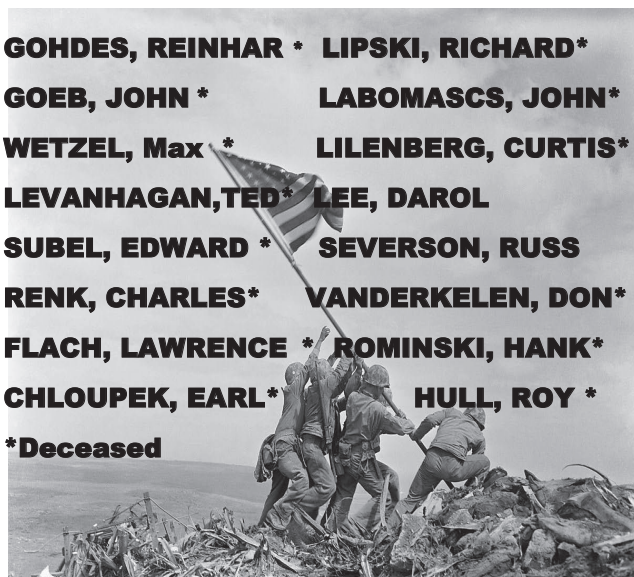


GY SGT ALAN P. LOPER USMC  
WISCONSIN CHAPTER

THIRD MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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**FLACH, LAWRENCE \* ROMINSKI, HANK\***  
**CHLOUPEK, EARL\* HULL, ROY \***  
**\*Deceased**



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Iwo Jima Survivor

A tale of his South Pacific  
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## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima Reunion

\* The Iwo Jima Association of America was pleased and honored to host the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Arlington, VA from 26-29 February. In attendance were over 50 Iwo Jima veterans and their families, military and civilian dignitaries, media and entertainment celebrities.

\* American Airlines graciously provided air transportation for any veteran and one companion...Kudos to AA, and especially to Mr. Aaron Russell who personally arranged for the flight accommodations for each vet and companion.

\* IJAA opened on Wednesday with early registration and welcome aboard hospitality. The Hospitality Suite was the center of activity and a non-stop Happy Hour with closing time well after bed-time! We are grateful to David Fields and Dog Company, 2/26, 5<sup>th</sup> MARDIV for stocking the Hospitality suite with refreshments.

\* On Thursday, our guests enjoyed a full day beginning with a police-escorted tour to and from the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum near the Dulles Airport, followed by an afternoon Memorial Service at the Iwo Jima Memorial and parade of Marines with remarks by General Mark A. Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps. All the veterans were honored with personal greetings, photos and interviews.

\* On Friday and once again, DC's finest provided a special escort to where all were greeted at the Museum of the Marine Corps by the Major General James Kessler, USMC (Retired), President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Our guests were welcomed for a Memorial Service with remarks by Major General William F. Mullen, USMC, Commanding General of the Marine Corps Training and Education Command, followed by a tour of the Museum.

\* Saturday was the big day with an Educational Symposium by historians Dr. Charles Neimeyer, Mr. James Oelke-Farley and Col Dick Camp, USMC (Ret) and an USMC operational presentation by Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policy and Operations.

LtGen George Smith, USMC. Fox News celebrities Martha MacCallum and David Webb were among those mixing and socializing with our grateful veterans, including movie star from "The French Connection", Mr. Tony LoBianco.

\* During the late afternoon all enjoyed a special VIP reception with our military Guest of Honor, the Commandant, as well as our celebrities.

Pictures, socialization and interviews again were the order of the early evening, leading to a wonderful evening Memorial Banquet attended by over 500 veterans and guests, including our Guest of Honor, Marine Commandant General Berger, Japanese Ambassador Yoshitaka Sugiyama, as well as the aforementioned Fox celebrities. Congressman Kenneth Calvert from California honored our veterans with a few remarks followed by General Berger. Punctuating IJAA's charter Peace and Reconciliation, we were graced with remarks from Japanese Representative, and grandson of the Japanese Commander at Iwo Jima, Tadamichi Kuribayashi, Representative Yoshitaka Shindo. General Norman Smith, Chairman of IJAA, was presented with a gift and the General Larry Snowden Peace and Reconciliation Award for his long service to the Iwo Jima Association, as was Col Warren Wiedhahn Executive Vice President.

\* The evening continued with the wonderful music and entertainment from Rick and Robin's Radio King Orchestra.

\*The Iwo Jima Association is especially thankful to the wonderful and generous sponsors and staff who made this all a memorable 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event for our veterans and families.

Semper Fidelis,







## FINAL CALL



**RHODES, JACK USMC**  
Iwo Jima  
Murphy, NC  
Died March 2019

**KIMSEY, TODD, US NAVY**  
Fire Controlman  
USS Pasadena  
Waters off of Iwo Jima  
Hawasssee, GA  
Died April, 27, 2019

**HJORTH, DENNIS USMC**  
Weapons Company  
Iwo Jima  
Glendive, Mt  
Died July 2019

**CORIER, CAPT. J. "Clif" USMC (R)**  
Bougainville Solomon Islands  
Iwo Jima  
Gainsville, FL  
Died February 2017

**SHERRIL, WILLIAM USMC**  
(ENLISTED AT AGE 15—turned 18 on Iwo Jima)  
Houston, TX  
Died September 2019



**ROAF, EUGENE US NAVY**  
Plane Captain  
USS Bennington  
Waters off Iwo Jima  
Punta Gorda, FL  
Died August 2019

**CROSS, GENE L. USMC**  
Iwo Jima  
Louisville, KY  
Died April 2018

**BELLEFEUILLE, BENE-DICT USMC**  
Iwo Jima  
San Louis Obispo, CA  
Died September 2019

**MOON, JOHN USMC**  
Iwo Jima  
5th Marine Division  
Macomb, IL  
Died November 2019

**WEST JR, WALTER LEON**  
US NAVY  
CORPSMAN  
Iwo Jima  
Gainsville, FL  
Died September 2013

**LIPSHUTZ, MAURICE**  
USMC Iwo Jima  
Buffalo Grove, IL  
Died September 2019

**TEDDER, JOSEPH**  
USMC Iwo Jima  
Castonia, NC  
Died February 2020



### *Rest In Peace*

*Don't grieve for me for now I'm free. I'm following the path God has laid you see. I took His hand when I heard him call. I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that peace at the close of day.*

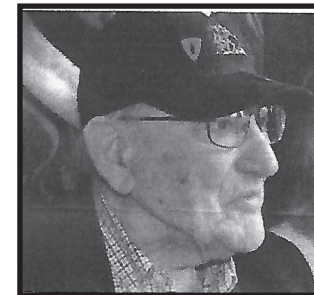
*If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. I shared a laugh, a kiss. Oh yes, these things I will miss.*

*Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life's been full, I savored much. My family, the Corps, good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief. Don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hearts and peace to thee. God wanted me now. He set me free.*

## PFC ELWOOD HUGHES

# Remembrance



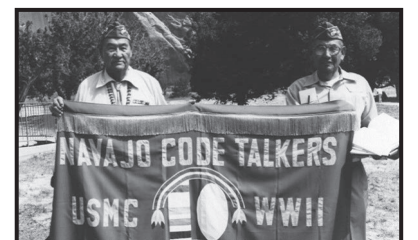
**My** birthday is May 14, 1925. On Iwo Jima I was a PFC Elwood Hughes serial number 868861, a member of the 5th Amphibious Corps, Signal Battalion serving in the Headquarters Company of the 5th. Marine Division, Keller E. Rockey Commander. I went ashore February 22, 1945 and left the island March 16, 1945. During that period I was exposed to the sights, sounds and smell of battle. This was not new to me because I had participated in the battle of Saipan. However, my memory of the sights, sounds and smell of Iwo Jima have been more lasting and intense. Upon landing on Iwo Jima I was directed to the edge of Motoyama Air-

field #1 where the 5th. Marine Division Command Center was being located and ordered to dig a fox hole nearby and stand by for duty. Within 24 hours I was witness to the most historic event of the history of the Marine Corps.

**The** first memory and lasting memory I have of the island is the smell of Sulphur. However, if you could find a hot spot that the Sulphur created, you could heat your C-Ration and coffee. The sound of battle was intense. When I first arrived at the command center, the front lines were only a few hundred yards away and I could see and feel the action of our artillery non-stop. I could also hear the rat-a-tat-tat of machine gun fire. Another memory I have is the piercing sound of a siren to let the command center know it was about to be a hit with mortar and artillery fire and to take cover. Occasionally, after the all clear, I could hear the call of "Corpsman" signifying that someone had been hit. Some of my major duties was to be on call to run messages and also assigned to tasks with the center to maintain its effectiveness.

**Nights** on Iwo will always be remembered by star shells drifting over the island lighting up the area revealing ghost like pictures of men and terrain. Other sights of my time on Iwo are both most memorable and disturbing. As I was away from the command center, some distance at times, I witnessed the dead scattered over the battle field. Seeing the enemy dead affected me emotionally but more was seeing fellow Marines.

**Because** of my longevity, a personal event was recognized recently by the gathering of our countries Indian Nations and contact with the Navajo Code Talkers on Iwo Jima.



**As** the purpose of the invasion was to aid the Army Air Corps, I was witness to the first B-29, Dina Mite, make an emergency landing and the first squadron of P31 Mustang fighters to land over my fox hole located close to Motoyama Airfield #1. My impression at the time of the Dina Mite was its size and of the Mustangs the speed of which they displayed.

**Duty** in the command center gave me information of the progress of the battle and contact with some of the officers. I remember the language officer by the name of Lt. John T. McLean who spoke fluent Japanese. I observed him once interrogating one of the few prisoners. I admired him for going into numerous caves trying to persuade the enemy to surrender. He almost lost his life in the cave that killed Bill Genaust the Marines combat photographer.



The ship is named after retired Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer Four Hershel Woodrow Williams. At 95 years old, Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient recognized for his heroic deeds at the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II.

I’m grateful to all those who have the expertise to put something like this together,” said Hershel Woodrow Williams, retired CWO4. “And may all those who serve aboard this ship that will bear my name be safe and be proud. And may she have God’s blessings for a long-life a of service to the greatest country on earth.”

The commissioning of the ship as a United States Ship will make it a more versatile and flexible warfighting machine, capable of a variety of sea missions. The ship operates with a mixed crew of Navy Seamen, Mariners, and civilians and is uniquely designed, being only the second ship of its kind, to have an open operations deck below and a flight deck above.

Its capabilities as a warfighting asset are not to be outdone, however, by its overall cost effectiveness as stated by General David H. Berger.

Quote: Hershel (Woody) Woods Williams

*“Many of the miracles in my life have occurred because of the actions of others.”*



Hershel “Woody” Williams, a 5-foot-6-inch kid who had only gotten into the Marines after they lowered the height standard, eliminated seven machine gun nests with a flame thrower and explosive charges in the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. His grisly work, for which Williams sought no glory, took four hours. It helped the U.S. win a pivotal battle in the Pacific Theater and earned Williams, the Medal of Honor

General Dynamics NASSCO Starts Sea Trails of USNC Hershel “Woody” Williams ESBA



WREATH LAYING NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ,  
WASHINGTON, DC



**L—R Josiah Bunting III, National WWII Memorial Chairman, Ira Rigger, Iwo Jima Veteran, Gen Mark Milley, U.S. Army, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff**

The nation’s top military officer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, U.S. Army, paid tribute on February 19th to the thousands of U.S. Marines and Navy Corpsmen who took part in what he called “the bloodiest campaign in American history, per square mile,” the World War II battle for Iwo Jima.

During the Pacific battle, which began on February 19, 1945 and lasted through March, nearly 7000 U.S. service members died and more than 19,000 were wounded. Among those landing on the island was Alexander Milley, father of General Milley.

“My father and those fellow Marines and Navy corpsmen who were hitting the beach were told there were no Japanese left alive,” gen. Milley recounted during the ceremony. “They hit the beach and got in about 800 meters or so, and then they hit a trigger line. Then all hell broke loose.”

“They began slugging it out, inch by inch, yard by yard for the next 36 days.”

He called the Iwo Jima campaign “an unbelievable battle in an entire war of unbelievable battles”

Milley said the goal of everyone who wears a uniform is to “never again” allow a great power war like the two world wars, in which 150 million people perished between 1914 and 1945. Let us resolve that we’re not going to ever have another great power war, because the slaughter it involves, is beyond the imagination, beyond the pale,” he said.

Credits to Stars and Stripes for photograph and article



# IJAA 2020 REUNION

## Day 1 Wednesday, February 26 —- Where Memories Begin

Veterans, families, friends start to arrive. Registration has begun, the hospitality room is opened and the multiple beverages, snacks, etc are being enjoyed. You can feel the excitement. At 1800 dinner provided by 29 Diner on the 17th floor of the hotel restaurant.



*John Wood, owner of 29 Diner, enjoying meeting our veterans. John donated the dinners Wednesday through Friday for all attending during this time. OOH-Rah to him!*

**Day 2 Thursday, February 27** - Early boarding for trip to the Udvar Hazy Air & Space Museum and then per request of the Commandant, General Berger, for his personal welcome to the Iwo Jima Monument site, Arlington, Virginia .



# USS Hershel “Woody” Williams Commissioned

Norfolk, VA—Lance Corporal Fernando Moreno, Defense Media Activity



The Expeditionary Sea Base Hershel "Woody" Williams was commissioned as a warship on March 7, 2020. The ship transfers from military Sealift Command to the Navy. In attendance to the event were figures such as the Commandant of the Marine Corps, West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark A. Milley; James Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy; and five Medal of Honor recipients.

**“This ship is a step in the right direction for what we can afford as a nation. It’s a draft office civilian design, but modified by naval architects to make a fighting ship out of it.”** *General David H. Berger, 38th Commandant of the Marine Corps*

Williams delivered his namesake address where he acknowledged the impact such an event has and will continue to have for the future.



## ARTHUR W. RODRIGUEZ

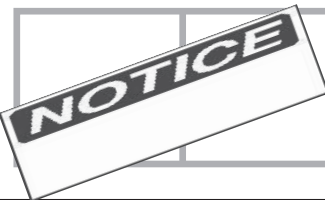
# Remembrance

This story is the way I remember it happening back in February 1945..

During the battle of Iwo Jima I was a Browning Automatic Rifleman, a B.A.R. man, of the rank of PFC. I was in the First Platoon of Rifle Company C (called Charlie Company), part of the First Battalion, 23rd Regiment, Fourth Marine Division. Each squad was led by a sergeant and consisted of three groups, each group had a group leader, a KBAR man and BAR assistant and a rifleman. My group was led by Corporal Lloyd Prevatte; in the other two groups were Corporal Morris Fusco and BAR man Richard Grider; and Corporal Ed Rajkowski and BAR man Ward. (After so many years, I'm afraid I don't remember any of the other names.)

It has taken me many years to accept that I, as a veteran from the Fourth Marine Division, can add to our part of the overall picture of this historic battle and not leave it all to the historians.

I now believe that anyone that took part in this battle should tell their story in writing. This way we can better understand the pain, suffering, and death; also why we had so many casualties.



### JOINT REUNION OF HONOR TO IWO JIMA

### POSTPONED TO FALL 2020

As we were preparing for the trip to Guam and the Joint Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima, the COVID-19 coronavirus, which originated in Asia, began to spread across the globe. Accordingly, the Joint Reunion of Honor planned for March 28, 2020 on Iwo Jima was postponed. IJAA and Military Historical Tours issued the following:

*Due to the concerns of the spreading of COVID-19 coronavirus, Japanese officials have decided to postpone the Joint Reunion of Honor (ROH) on Iwo Jima (IwoTo), planned for March 28, 2020 to a later date this year. The IJAA will continue to coordinate with the US and Japanese officials on the new date for the ROH, and are looking at a new window in the October/November time-frame. IJAA will advise all when a date has been set. We anticipate a date being set soon. The priority remains the health and safety of the attendees, particularly the Iwo Jima veterans.*

#### ☐ What are my options?

Reschedule to the new anticipated date in fall.  
Reschedule to 2022— currently, 2021 is not anticipated.  
Roll over to another MHT tour.  
Cancel completely.

#### ☐ Can I get a refund?

Unfortunately, it is outside the originally schedule refund window and non-refundable payments have been submitted for flights transportation and accommodations.

#### ☐ I purchased my airline tickets independently from Military Hx. Tours, can I get a refund?

Delta/United Airlines may honor your request or provide a credit for a future flight within a years. Call your agent and advise of the postponement by the Japanese government of the tour.

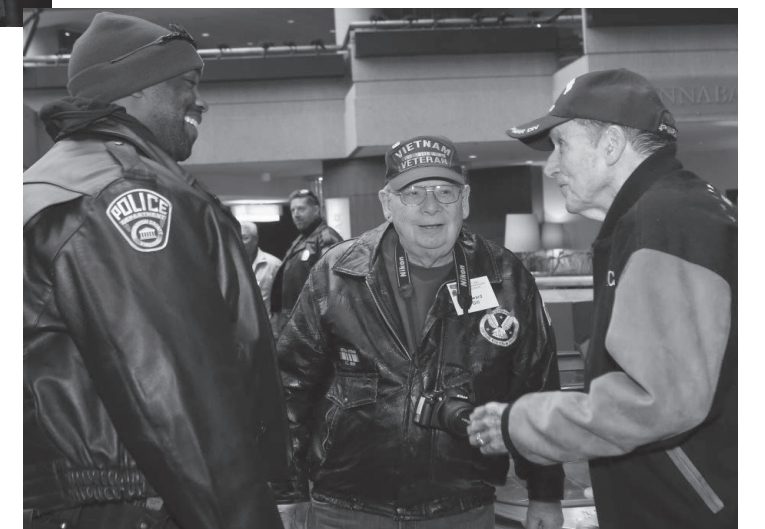
#### ☐ When do I need to advise IJAA/MHT if I want to continue on the possible travel to Guam and the ROH on Iwo Jima?

Contact Military Historical Tours immediately.

#### ☐ When do I need to advise IJAA/MHT if I want to go in 2021?

Currently a 2021 visit to Iwo Jima is not anticipated if the fall 2020 tour goes.

## Day 2 Continued - General Berger's Personal Welcome



Following the moving ceremony and message from General Berger and SgtMaj Black it was time to board the bus (and warm up from the blustery cold wind), and head back to the hotel and the wonderful dinner from 29 Diner.



### Day 3 Friday, February 28 — National Museum of the Marine

Board the bus at 8:15 AM, and again the police officers provide an escort to the Museum. The police stated it is their honor for provide the private escort. We arrive at the museum and headed directly to the auditorium where we are met by Major General James Kessler, USMC (Ret), President and CEO of Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and Major General William F. Mullen, USMC, Commanding General, Training & Education Command. To pay recognition of all the Iwo Jima veterans the museum specifically displayed both flags from Iwo Jima. Many visitors and active duty Marines were overwhelmed by the presence of our Iwo Jima veterans. The room was filled with awe and respect that they could witness this occasion.



### Day 4 Saturday, February 28 - Symposium and Banquet

The morning consisted of historians focusing on the battle of Iwo Jima and the updated history on the 2 Iwo Jima flags. LtGen George Smith USMC, Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policy and Operations gave an update on today's Marines. All Iwo Jima veterans met in the hospitality room before dinner for a group photo, followed by the banquet, music and dancing. The night did not end there. The hospitality room, once again was filled with comradery, laughter and more snacks and beverages.

What a week it has been!



Front (L-R): Ivan Hammond, William Jayne Jr, Clayton Narveson, Hershel "Woody" Williams, General David Berger, Jack Thurman, Charles Gurish, Hardy Eubanks, Jack Colby, Fred Harvey

Mid (L-R): John Dennaro, Giovanni Faiello, Thomas Price, Roy Earle, William Houston, Louis Smith, Jim Sivelle, James Freil, Charles Guinta, Charles Greene, Bud Hampton, Ralph Whitlock, Raymond Heise, Herman Vohs, Kimel Brent

Back (L-R): George Colburn, Thomas Breggia, Raymond Salute, Fiske Hanley, Rondo Scharfie, Earl Hadley, Clinton Trefethen, John Welsh, Carl Cook, Pedro Carrillo, Robert Persichilti, John Sofedes, Roger Tipka, Gene Bell, Andrew Paulk

Standing (L-R): Martha MacCallum, Mrs. Susan Smith, LtGen Norm Smith, Tony Lo Bianco, MajGen David Bice

