



# THE BLACK SANDS

The Publication of Iwo Jima Association of American  
[WWW.IwoJimaAssociation.org](http://WWW.IwoJimaAssociation.org)

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.





See inside front cover for full display of medallion.

## **Marine Corps Marathon Medallion** Washington, DC

This beautiful medallion was presented to 2020 Marine Corps Marathon finishers. This year, runners ran individually so as to conform to the Covid 19 recommendations.

The ribbon with the medallion was sent to all our WWII Iwo Jima veterans to honor their valor and spirit of “Never Give Up.”

Around the center of the raised dome, it picture’s the Iwo Jima flag raising and sand from Iwo Jima.

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# BLACK SANDS

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SPRING 2021 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

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# **Chairman of the Board Message**

## **Iwo Jima Association of American**

### ***LtGen Norman Smith USMC (Ret)***



Greetings to all.

We are fortunate in that we dodged a bullet by having a successful IJAA Iwo Jima 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2020 Reunion before the Covid 19 restrictions hit us. Unfortunately, world-wide effects of the pandemic caused the 75<sup>th</sup> Joint Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima to be cancelled.

Nonetheless, we fared better than most in finishing the year, and finished in good financial shape. Now we must plan for a successful 2021. Speaking of which, the continued COVID restrictions preclude our traditional 2021 Reunion and Symposium in the local area. As for the 2021 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Joint Reunion of Honor, we are hopeful the distribution and administering of the COVID vaccine will allow us to return to Guam and Iwo Jima in the not-too-distant future.

IJAA has a terrific team engaged in our Iwo Jima commemoration, both here in the US and in Japan. We continue to have an excellent relationship with the Government of Japan and key Japanese officials, including IJAA's long-time dear friend and highly-respected, Representative Yoshitaka Shindo, who many of you know is the grandson of General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the commander of Japanese forces during the battle of Iwo Jima. Representative Shindo has been a driving force in Japan in helping us to honor those who bravely fought in that fierce battle through the annual Joint Reunion of Honor ceremony.

The Embassy of Japan in Washington also has played a key role in working through all the important elements and details in holding the annual ceremony on Iwo Jima. Additionally, IJAA must give kudos for the invaluable assistance we receive from III MEF with their assistance with invitations, coordination with the US Embassy in Japan and dignitaries, and invaluable logistic support.

We shall greatly miss Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama, who has returned to Japan, and look forward to a close relationship with his successor, Ambassador Koji Tomita.

The staff continues to lean in the harness in preparation for the clearance to return to Iwo Jima and are working on expanding our educational outreach effort. We are grateful to read the wonderful stories from our Iwo Jima Veterans and the remembrances and letters from family members of those who participated in the battle of Iwo Jima and other battles in the Pacific.

God Bless and stay safe.

LtGen Norman Smith, USMC (Ret)

# President's Message

## Iwo Jima Association of America

### *MajGen David Bice, USMC (Ret)*



Greetings! I am sure all will agree the past year has been unlike any other we have experienced. Sadly, many, including many members and friends of IJAA were devastated by COVID-19. Our hearts go out to those who perished by this terrible virus and the pain and grief faced by their loved ones. We can all hope that 2021 will be a year of recovery, healing and immunity from this and other threats we face.

Even as we had to alter our plans for our annual reunion-symposium and the Joint Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima, the business of IJAA continued.

The Board of Directors updated the by-laws and committee assignments to improve the development of new initiatives and future planning. As with any organization, IJAA must continue to adapt to the changing environment, membership demographics, and the fervent desire to honor the legacy of those who participated in the iconic battle of Iwo Jima. Further, it is our duty to educate the public of the service and sacrifice of all those who served our nation in the Pacific theater of World War II.

Although we do not know when the next trip to Guam and Iwo Jima for the Joint Reunion of Honor will be held, we are confident and all attendees will need to have the COVID vaccine administered prior to travel. So, I encourage all to get the vaccine as soon as it is available. We will make the announcement of any planned trip and ceremony as soon as we hear it; accordingly, please ensure we have your up-to-date contact information at IJAA.

Thanks to **Executive Director LtCol Art Sifuentes'** membership recruiting efforts, several **Marine Corps League Detachments** and **Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts** have joined our ranks. We welcome them and look forward to hearing from them. If you are a member of any similar veteran organization, ask the leadership to fill out the application to join IJAA.

I am delighted and often humbled to read the stories and accounts of the battle of Iwo Jima submitted by veterans of the battle, and families and friends of those who were there. **Black Sands Editor Annette Loper** continues to seek these stories to include in each edition of our *Black Sands* newsletter. Even as time has faded the memories of exact names and details, the accounts reflect a sobering reminder of the fierceness of the battle and the sacrifices of those who were there. Continue to send in those stories as they are among the highlights of each newsletter. Also, stay connected on our Iwo Jima Association of America Facebook Group Page—click the 'ask to join' tab.

With warmest best wishes.

David F. Bice  
MajGen USMC (Ret)

## **Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor Remarks by BGen J.B. Wellons, Deputy Commander U.S. Forces, Japan**



(On October 24, 2020 the reunion was held only for those residing in Japan.)

Good Morning, and a special greeting to the veterans and next of kin from the Iwo Jima Campaign who may see this Reunion of Honor on line. And welcome to the Japanese and U.S. officials who have joined us for this important day. It is with awe, humility, and great reverence that I stand here with you today to mark this anniversary of the extraordinary sacrifice that occurred on this hallowed ground. Seventy five years ago, our two proud and strong countries faced off here in a brutal and bloody fight that will never be forgotten. For Marines, this is the place where a small group of our forefathers forever etched our legacy upon the mountain that rises behind me.

One Marine fell here for every Japanese casualty, and over 27,000 men perished. 1 in 3 Marines were killed or wounded, and 19 of 24 Marine Battalion Commanders were casualties. This sacrifice was shared by our Navy Sailors, Corpsmen and Chaplains, our Army pilots and soldiers. And it defies description to consider the sacrifice of the Japanese soldiers and sailors who prepared these defenses for months and fought nearly to the last. In the words of Max Hastings, this was a place that tested man's capacity to inflict and endure suffering.

Marine Lieutenant Pat Caruso tells us the story of Iwo Jima. In only 12 days of combat, he served in a company that lost 180 of its 250 men, in a battalion that lost all 22 of its company grade officers. Yet at the end of this terrible struggle, he said of his Japanese opponents: "I often thought that if I had to go to war again, I would want them on my side." And as we stand here as allies 75 years hence, we should take solace in the strength of the alliance that our countries have forged together, which is the enduring legacy of those who fought here. From the bitterest of enemies to the closest of friends – we have come a long way indeed.

A mere fifteen years after the last round was fired here, our nations came together to sign a historic and forward-looking security treaty. In the sixty years since, this alliance has been the bedrock of peace and security in a region where threats and challenges continue to evolve and grow. Our collective understanding of the peace and security we seek to protect has sharpened in its focus, as we continue to spread the values of democracy, human rights, and a free and open Indo-Pacific.

And finally, I will paraphrase the immortal words of Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, who stood on this very ground and said it is the obligation of the living to ensure that our sons and daughters shall never have to suffer the pains that were borne here. We honor the legacy of those who fought here by dedicating ourselves to live in peace ... and to preserve our strength so these sacrifices were not made in vain.

And we must keep our hands firmly grasped as allies as we continue to build and protect the kind of world for which these men died. I will close by thanking the Government of Japan for organizing this event, and offer my deepest gratitude and respect to our partners in the Japanese Self Defense Forces.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis.



**A statement from LtGen Norman Smith, was read at a small Reunion of Honor ceremony on Iwo Jima, which was held in fall of 2020. Due to the Covid 19 and travel restrictions, attendance was limited in number and only those residing in Japan.**

Greetings.

Today's memorial ceremony has been brought about by our esteemed friends in Japan, who join with us in honoring the Japanese and American fighting men who faced each other on Iwo To. Although the world's situation dictated a delay in the time honored Reunion of Honor on the island, the following remarks prepared for the March 2020 memorial, are no less sincere.

I know you join me in extending a warm welcome to the revered veterans of the battle of Iwo Jima, to all of them on both sides of the battle. We welcome also, with the utmost respect, the bereaved next of kin. It is for these people - those we honor, those we esteem, those we remember and those we mourn - that we come every year to this small island in the Pacific Ocean as intended by Lieutenant General Lawrence Snowden, Representative Shindo and Major General Fred Haynes.

The Reunion of Honor, which began in 1995, is dedicated to the reconciliation of former enemies. With mutual respect we honor those who fought here, those who perished here and those who were here wounded in body and soul.

The black sand of the island's beaches is treacherous to this day. The terrain of rocks and wasteland and caves, now mercifully covered by the green of returning life, was in 1945 a hell on earth where warriors fought in combat so fierce that we who were not there can only bow our heads in silent respect.

Seventy-five years have passed since the battle of Iwo Jima began in February 1945. We are standing on a battlefield hallowed by the courage and the blood of men who endured what had to be endured, to the bitter end. What happened here has been remarkable transcended in a way that no one could have imagined during the chaos and terror of that long battle. The United States of America and Japan put aside enmity and embraced reconciliation, which over time turned into friendship, into partnership that sets an example for the entire world to follow. We are committed allies standing shoulder to shoulder against very real threats of aggression.

Valor here won for us the possibility of future redemption, a legacy we treasure in our hearts. And in our hearts let us listen in silence to the wind and the waves and say farewell to those whose voices were never heard again.

Madam Kuribayashi spoke for them and for all of us who remember: "enemies, now friends, never again."

Thank you.

## Iwo Jima Association of American

### End of Year Report

Submitted by: Executive Director, LtCol Raul (Art) Sifuentes USMC (Ret)



We can all agree 2020 was indeed a challenging year. Though Covid-19 took its toll in all quarters, we had a successful February 2020 Reunion/Symposium in Arlington, VA, kicking off the 75th Anniversary. Thanks to the terrific gathering and volunteers we were able to realize a financial recovery. Kudos to all involved. As a result, IJAA has been able to begin building an operational reserve.

Unfortunately, the 75th Joint Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima had to be cancelled. We were able to fill two vacant, much needed staff billets as IJAA heartily welcomed MajGen John Ewers, USMC (Ret) as General Counsel, and Ms. Linda Griffin as Secretary. Welcome aboard!

- **Development Committee** Chair Mr. Gene Colabattisto is establishing a fundraising Educational Development program.
- **Governance Committee** Chairman Mr. David Fields tackled and provided updated By-Laws and has volunteered to assist on the Finance Committee.
- **Finance Committee Chairman and Treasurer** Mr. David Scott arranged to have a financial compilation report by Young, Oakes, Brown & Co. CPA. Thank you, Mr. Scott.
- **IJAA President** MajGen David Bice established an IJAA Facebook account which has developed great interest and tremendous response. On a near daily basis we are attracting new members.

Black Sands published a new and improved publication with additional facets recognizing our donors, heroes who have passed, and more.

Thanks to Will Donaldson and our part-time assistant, Kerrigan Patterson, the IJAA website has been updated, a fundraising Wall of Honor has been established, and the IJAA Store has an expanded product line.

We continued commemoration and recognition of our Iwo Jima Veterans by sending all known Iwo Vets a copy of the *75th Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima Journal*. Additionally, the 2020 Marine Corps Marathon donated Marine Corps Marathon finisher medals for distribution to all known Iwo Jima Veterans for their indomitable spirit of "Never give up."

Cont.

The unique 2020 Medal depicted the iconic Iwo Jima Memorial flag raising embedded with Iwo Jima sand.

IJAA has begun distribution of IJAA Membership Cards with each membership renewal.

A membership soliciting drive was initiated to all Marine Corps League organizations. At this point 50 responses have been received and added to the IJAA membership.

It is with deep regret the February 2021 Symposium/Reunion in Arlington, VA has been cancelled due to Covid 19.

IJAA is standing by and prepared to execute the 2021 Guam Tour and Joint Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor. We shall "pull the trigger" and notify all concerned immediately upon notification and fulfillment of the required conditions set by the US and Japanese Governments.

Additional IJAA future plans are to investigate the feasibility of a West Coast Reunion/ Symposium in early fall, to include tours and a fundraising golf tournament. Any assistance from West Coast members to provide input, get the word out, coordinate events, and solicit corporate and individual event sponsorships to determine the next step will be greatly appreciated. Interested volunteers are asked to contact IJAA Executive Director LtCol Raul Sifuentes, USMC (Ret), at [rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org](mailto:rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org) or call/text mobile phone directly (703)963-6895).

IJAA must maintain our momentum to ensure continued commemoration of our Iwo Jima veterans, their legacy carries on, and their sacrifice is never forgotten. We continue to educate the public on this iconic battle and its place in our history and that of the Marine Corps.

**We must never forget.**

We wish you a safe, prosperous, and healthy 2021.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Raul (Art) Sifuentes, USMC (Ret)  
Executive Director



*Ambassador of Japan  
Washington, D. C.*

December 25, 2020

Dear Friends:

I am writing to say farewell, as I have been formally instructed to leave Washington, D.C., completing my duties as an envoy for good at the end of January. It has been my great honor to support the U.S.-Japan relationship, which is so vital to peace and prosperity in the world, as well as to a rich exchange of culture and ideas.

2020 has been an especially challenging year, but with your support, the relationship between Japan and the United States has grown ever closer as we continue to cooperate in our pandemic responses and in other areas.

On a personal note, this year I also had to struggle with the sudden and unexpected loss of my beloved wife Yoko. I want to thank you again for your kindness and sympathy which have helped me to endure this difficult time.

I hope that next year will bring an end to the pandemic and will be a good year for all of us. I hope to be able to say goodbye to many of you in person, and look forward to the opportunity to see you again in the future.

I am told that the new Ambassador will come and assume my duties immediately after I leave. I would greatly appreciate it if you would extend him the same warm support that you have given me during my term.

Sincerely,

杉山 晋輔

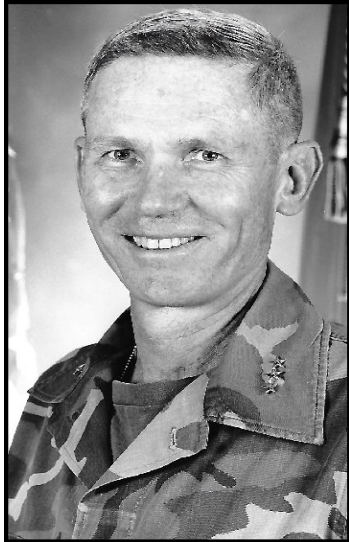
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# Meet Your Officers Corner

## **LTGEN NORMAN SMITH USMC RET IJAA Board Chairman**



He was born and raised in Bucyrus, Ohio, a small typical mid-western community 50 miles north of Columbus. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas where he was co-captain of the Razorback basketball team earning 2d Team All-Southwest Conference honors his senior year.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps Officer Candidate Class and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in December 1955. There followed the normal pattern of a company grade officer in the Corps: twice a company commander in the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions, a tour executive officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Hancock, CVA-19 and three years as the Guard Officer at the Marine Barracks, US Navy Base, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Following a year in Vietnam where he was the senior advisor to a Vietnamese Army Infantry Battalion in I Corps, he served as the Marine Officer Instructor in the NROTC Unit at the Ohio State University where he was promoted to Major and completed a Master's degree in physiology.

During his second combat tour in Vietnam, LtGen Smith served as the assistant operations officer on the staff of the 1st. Marine Division before becoming the executive officer of 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines and later its commanding officer. Promotion to LtCol found him assigned as the Deputy Director of the Marine Corps Physical Fitness Academy at Quantico and later, as the Inspector-Instructor of 3rd. Battalion, 25th. Marines in Cleveland, Ohio. Following this he was assigned to the Plans Division of HQMC serving for a period of four years ending up as the Deputy Director of Plans. While in Plans Division he was promoted to colonel and served a two year tour of duty in the Mediterranean as the Fleet Marine Officer of the US Sixth Fleet home port of Gaeta, Italy. He was promoted to Brigadier General after serving the second year on the flagship as the Chief of Staff, Sixth Fleet.

As a general officer LtGen Smith served as the assistant Division Commander of the 2nd Marine Division, was the CG of the 4th Marine Brigade and CG Landing Force Training Command in Norfolk, VA. Here he commanded this brigade in the largest amphibious force exercise ever conducted 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Included in the brigade was a Royal Marine Commando and a Royal Dutch Marine company. (It was during this tour of duty that he met MajGen David Bice (now president of IJAA), who was serving in a liaison billet with the Royal Marines.) Later assignments included the Assistant Operations Officer of Allied Forces, NATO, in Oslo, Norway where he was promoted to Major General. J-5 Plans Officer and chief of Staff of the Atlantic Command in Norfolk, VA followed with a trip west to Japan, where he was assigned as the CG, II MEF, CG, 3rd. Marine Division and CG, Marine Corps Bases, Japan, among other assignments.

While on Okinawa he was promoted to LtGen Smith before returning to HQMC, Washington, DC, where he was assigned as Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Reserve Affairs before retiring with almost 36 years of active duty on 1 August 1991.

Following retirement from the Marine Corps in 1991, LtGen Smith spent 17 years developing military industrial projects with a think tank in Washington. Also he spent 8 years on the board of the Marine Corps Association, while at the same time was the lead independent trustee on the board of the John Hancock Mutual Funds in Boston where he was twice nominated as the top independent trustee in the mutual fund industry. After 17 years on the mutual fund board, he retired and he and his wife, Susan, live in Linden and Frederick County, VA.

Continued next page



### Awards

Distinguished Service Medal  
Defense Superior Service Medal  
Legion of Merit (2)  
Bronze Star Medal w/Combat (2)  
Combat Action Ribbon  
Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/silver star  
Order of the Rising Sun  
Gold Rays (from the Emperor of Japan)

Thank you General Smith for your years of military service and your eleven years serving IJAA as President and then as IJAA Board Chairman.

### IN FLANDERS FIELDS

By John McCrae

- In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
- We are the dead short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
*In Flanders Fields*
- Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If you break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though the  
poppies grow.



### Marine Corps Birthday Arlington National Cemetery



Each year in celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday, volunteers place a Marine Corps flag on the right side of Marines tombstone who are buried at Arlington.

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## **FIRST LIEUTENANT HARRY L. MARTIN USMC**

### **LAST IWO JIMA MEDAL OF HONOR**

Submitted by Lt Gen Norman Smith, USMC Ret

I, Norm Smith was born and raised in Bucyrus, Ohio, a small typical mid-western community 50 miles north of Columbus. Bucyrus was also the birthplace of First Lieutenant Harry Martin the subject of this piece. Lieutenant Martin was a number of years older than me and frankly, during the immediate years after World War II, little was known of Harry Martin and he was not in the mainstream of thought in Bucyrus.

As years past and the swell of patriotic pride in the nation and for their service, men and women became more prominent and Martin was finally appropriately recognized. In recognition of his exploits on Iwo Jima in March 1945 for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor (MOH), recognition came to him with town signs on several major roads entering Bucyrus, the naming of a bridge above the Sandusky River in his honor, the naming of a street, a large memorial window installed in an entry way to the then newly constructed Bucyrus High School and finally a beautiful and dignified memorial placed in the city's Oakwood Cemetery where Martin is buried. I became aware of Martin's service as a Marine when I noticed his portrait hanging in the passage way of the Headquarters, 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton.



Although retired, I was invited to be the main speaker at the dedication of the memorial window in the high school. I previously participated in the collection and identification of artifacts to be placed in the window. Included in the collection was a small glass vial of the Black Sands that I had acquired during a visit to Iwo when I was the Commanding General of III Marine Amphibious Force and the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa. Later I was able to provide a vial of the Black Sands to be placed in a small window of Martin's stone memorial in the cemetery.

Using the preceding as a background to Lieutenant Martin's exploits, let's view what author Bill D. Ross says of Martin in Ross's book "Iwo Jima, Legacy of Valor".

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In the dark predawn stillness of March 26, exactly five weeks after D-Day, between two and three hundred Japanese launched a final suicide attack--not a drunken, shouting banzai charge, but a well-organized and silent raid that bore every sight of Kuribayashi's cunning and determination. The first indication of trouble came at 5:15 a.m. when a sudden, sharp outburst of small arms fire broke out in a bivouac area just west of Motoyama Airfield Number Two.

Peacefully at sleep in a complex of tents were nearly three hundred men, mixed bag of Marine shore parties and supply troops, Air Corps crewmen, Army antiaircraft gunners, and Seabees. All had bedded down believing there was no danger within miles. After all, organized resistance had ceased. The island was officially secured.

Things might have been different if the Americans were all combat troops. But most were unaccustomed to the bitter business of man-to-man fighting, and the enemy commander, whoever he was, had picked shrewdly the spot where the Japanese could expect to inflict maximum destruction before their certain annihilation.

Continued next page



Martin cont.

Moving grimly and silently, the enemy struck from three directions. Within seconds Japanese were everywhere, slashing tent walls, knifing sleeping men who never knew what hit them, throwing hand grenades, swinging ceremonial swords, firing automatic weapons.

By a stroke of fortune, the brunt of the attack hit the Fifth Pioneer Battalion. The unit had finished its shore party work and was ready to leave the island that day. Like all Marines, they were combat troops first, specialists second, and they knew what to do in such circumstances.

First Lieutenant Harry L. Martin of Bucyrus, Ohio, threw up a scrimmage line manned largely by black troops, who coolly beat back one attack, then another, by screaming Japanese firing wildly at us. It was now light enough to see what was happening, and Martin moved forward to help other Marines in a foxhole and was wounded twice. Then the thirty-four-year-old reserve officer overran a machine gun position, killing four Japanese with his pistol.

Fifth Division infantrymen, standing by to head for the beach and board ship, heard the fury and joined the melee. The attack was beaten back in furious fighting. Wounded and dead, friend and foe, littered the scene. A company of men from the Army's 147th Infantry Regiment appeared with a flamethrower tank shortly after 8:00 a.m., nearly three hours after the first shots were fired.

By then Iwo's last battle was over.

In blood splattered tents were forty-four dead airmen and eighty-eight wounded. Nine Marines were killed and thirty-one wounded, the last of 25,851 to fall in thirty-six days. Strewed grotesquely about the battle-ground were 262 Japanese bodies. Eighteen were taken prisoner, the last of fewer than two hundred captured by Marines.

—No one knows the name of the first Marine killed on the awful island.

—But the name of the last was First Lieutenant Harry L. Martin.

—He gave his life fighting for his comrades, his Corps, his country.

—Martin earned the last Medal of Honor to go to the valiant men of Iwo Jima."

#### HARRY LINN MARTIN

January 4, 1911—March 26, 1945

Harry Linn Martin was a member of the Ohio National Guard and graduated from Bucyrus High School and from Michigan State College in East Lansing, Michigan, where he majored in business administration. At State, he was on the football and wrestling teams and did some boxing and skiing. He was a member of Sigma Alpha fraternity and served two years in the Cavalry unit of the ROTC. Following graduation in 1936, he worked in Honolulu, Hawaii, as an office manager for the Hawaiian Construction Tunnel Company.

On 25 August 1943, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. Following schooling at Quantico, he completed the Engineers School at New River, NC, and was designated an Engineer Officer on 13 March 1944.

He was assigned to 2nd Marine Battalion 16th Marines, engineer regiment of the 5th Marine Division, he joined Company C when the battalion was changed to 5th Pioneer Battalion.

He went overseas with his unit in summer of 1944 and went into training at Hawaii, on 20 February 1945, he landed on Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands and before the day ended he already sustained a slight wound. He was promoted to 1stLt on 1 March 1945, twenty-five days before his death.

The Medal of Honor and citation was presented posthumously by the then Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal on 6 May 1948.

He was initially buried at the 5th Division Cemetery at Iwo Jima but upon his mother's request was moved to Oakwood Cemetery, Bucyrus, Ohio.

# SEABEES STORIES

Submitted by John Tabomski, son of a WWII Navy Seabee and also a Seabee history buff.

## HEY WAIT A MINUTE !

The Marines expect fast service from the Seabees, if a story received from Marine Corporal J. M. Purcel is any indication. He described how one optimistic Marine, a few minutes after H Hour on Iwo Jima, cheered his buddies by saying: "The way I figure it, the Seabees are just about starting to work on the airfield by now."

## LUCKY

A lucky man is Chief Carpenter George E. Hermansen CEC1 USNR, of Chicago Illinois. In charge of a Seabee mapping team which hit the beach at Iwo Jima a few hours after the initial Marine landings, Mr. Hermansen became separated from his detail in the confusion of the landing. Digging in on the beach he remained there for two hours, pinned down by the heavy enemy artillery barrage, then was called upon to attempt to locate the Seabee shore party commander.

"It got dark while I was searching and I crawled into a shell hole with four Marine officers and three other men," he recalled. Twenty minutes later we were hit by three shells at once. I was unconscious for almost an hour and when I came to, I saw that four of the others had been killed. "

After recovering from the effects of the blast, the CEC officer dodged across the sulfuric sands to another shell hole.

"There were two men in it when I got there", he said, "but I never had a chance to ask their names. They were killed almost immediately by a direct hit. Once more I came through without a scratch."

Mr. Hermansen spent the remainder of the night in the same shell hole under almost continuous fire, then located his mapping team the next morning and then went to work.

## THE FORTUNES OF WAR

Narrow escapes on Iwo Jima were as numerous as .30 caliber slugs. Three members of a Seabee shore party who lugged their machine gun ashore a few hours after the first Marine wave went in, have one to add to the list.

Olan E. Goodwin CM2C, Frank Johnnesse MMIC, and Joseph Leese, Jr., F1C, sweated out the first night and at dawn started down the beach to locate the rest of their outfit. They came upon four Marines, paused for brief conversation and the seven of them started on. They had gone only a ten yards when a shell struck where the

four Marines were hit. The three Seabees were unhurt, which flattened them.

Tank trouble shooter, was Joseph G. Kissel, EM2CM attached to the Marines 5th tank battalion on Iwo who were on tanks at a time when all personnel except the assault troops, were busy digging private foxholes.

Praise for Kissel, who was assigned to the tank battalion to give technical assistance with the new flame-thrower tanks, came from Col. William W. Collins of the 5th Marines.

Colonel Kissel, was sent on temporary detached duty to furnish the necessary technical advice and assistance. On this duty he performed to a very high and praiseworthy degree. He landed on D-Plus-1, and proceeded immediately to the Flame Tanks and corrected some regulator trouble. At this time all personnel except the assault troops were busy digging a private foxhole.

He continued this high standard of performance duty during the entire operation and personally accompanied the flame-tanks into Japanese positions to observe their effect.

## TANK TROUBLE SHOOTER ON IWO

Frank Riefle, - (133rd NCB) Seaman First Class, never expected to be on the front lines the first night on Iwo Jima. Riefle armed with a "BAR" was a member of a squad of Seabees and Marines who were to furnish a perimeter guard around the shore-party. He recalls: When our boat hit the beach, I made a dive for the sand. I had just gotten down flat when my ring was knocked off the middle finger of my right hand by a piece of shrapnel. I was only scratched, men were being hit all around me. Then two other Seabee riflemen and I were ordered to move up away from the beach and fire on some snipers. We moved 50 yards and some shells fell between us and the rest of the shore-party. We went forward again to keep from being hit, and were forced to keep going as the barrage moved up behind us. By night-fall on D-Day, we were on the front lines. During the night, Riefle made two trips back to the beach helping wounded men. The next day he and the other Seabees made their way back to the shore-party, which was unloading supplies on the beach. but not before he says Riefle, emptied a few more clips at the Japanese.

Continued on next page

# SEABEES STORIES

They found a break in their work and cornered Marine Corporal John Sidor, and poured out their troubles. "So you want to win the war?", said the Leatherneck. "Okay! Gents, here's your chance." He put the men to work on the howitzer, checking them as they loaded and fired.

Observation reports showed that Althaus, Elliott, and their Marine instructor received partial credit for destroying an enemy pillbox besides inflicting casualties on Japanese personnel.



## SEABEES KILLED IN ACTION



EDWARD ANDERSON UDT 12  
"CB"

133RD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

EDWIN BLYTHE 2/19/45

THOMAS MCKINNEY 2/19/45

JOSEPH BENSON 2/19/45

LAWRENCE BETZ 2/20/45

NORMAN BONDURANT  
2/20/45

JOHN BUTTS JR. 2/19/45

RALPH CAREY 2/19/45

WALTER COLEMAN 2/19/45

FRANCIS CRAIG 2/19/45

PAUL DAVIDICH 2/19/45

NELDON DAY 2/19/45

J.D. DE MONEY 2/19/45

NORMAN DUPUIS 3/10/45

ELZA EVANS 3/4/45

HANS GATTERER 2/19/45

ROBERT GEER 2/19/45

JOHN GRUDZINA 2/19/45

MARVIN HAYNES 2/19/45

THOMAS HERMAN 2/19/45

ARTHUR HERRON 2/19/45

WILLIAM ERICKSON 106  
NCB 4/16/45 MINE

FRED KETTERING 2/25/45

OSCAR LEASER 2/19/45

ROBERT MARTIN 2/23/45

BLAIR MCCAN 2/19/45

JULIUS MCCARTY 2/19/45

ORIE MILLARD 2/19/45

GEORGE MITCHELL 2/19/45

HERBERT MOXEY 2/19/45

LRON NEWSOME 2/19/45

HARRY NOLL 2/19/45

ROBERT OLSON 2/19/45

JOSEPH PECK 2/19/45

ROBERT PIRIE 2/19/45

PHILANDER PITTSER 2/19/45

FRANCIS ROBINSON 2/19/45

MALCOM ROSE 2/19/45

LEONARD SALE 2/19/45

JESS SIMPSON 2/19/45

EARL SMULL 2/19/45

CASPER TOMASETTI 2/19/45

JOHN ANTHONY 62 NCB  
3/1/45

EDWARD BARENKAMP 62  
NCB 3/27/45

WILLIAM BEALES 90 NCB  
6/1/45

CLIFFORD BRUCE 62 NCB  
4/7/45

THOMAS GILBERT 106 NCB  
4/16/45 MINE

RICHARD BLACK 90 NCB 4/16/45  
MINE

JOHN BRADY 106 NCB 4/16/45  
MINE

ACE COXE 90 NCB 3/26/45

GROVER DODSON 106 NCB  
4/16/45 MINE

EDMUND DUEHRING 62 NCB  
3/10/45

BILLY GRIMM 90 NCB 6/1/45

THOMAS GROVE 31 NCB 3/18/45

ARTHUR HAFFLING 90 NCB  
6/1/45

FRANCISCO JARAMILLO 95 NCB  
4/25/45

DAVID KLAUSNER 106 NCB  
4/16/45 MINE

RALPH MCDONALD 106 NCB  
4/16/45 MINE

THEODORE MARTIN 90 NCB  
3/26/45

HENRY OLSON 106 NCB 4/13/45

CLYDE REAVES 31 NCB 3/19/45

MARVIN ROSIN 90 NCB 6/1/45

WILLIAM BROWN 90 NCB 6/1/45

LINCOLN CLEMENT 62 NCB 3/1/45

EDGAR GILLHAM 106 NCB 4/16/45  
MINE



# SEABEES STORIES

## Do Major Iwo Building Hot!

The Navy's Seabees started this advance base construction job literally from the ground up —where the Japanese shells and mortars had pinned them when they landed 40 minutes after H-hour.

Assigned to bulldoze supplies and equipment ashore in preparation for rebuilding the airstrips as soon as it could be captured, the Navy's construction specialists ran into what one of them described as "the hottest battle of supply in the Pacific." AIC. Frank Riefle of St. Louis, Mo., father of six children, was a member of a squad of Seabees and Marines whose first job was to furnish a perimeter guard around the rest of the shore party.

When our boat hit the beach, I made a dive for the sand. I was only scratched, but men were being hit all around me. "The Seabees and the Marines moved 50 yards inland, and some shells fell between us and the rest of the shore party. We kept on going forward to keep from being hit, and by nightfall of D-day, we were on the front lines." The next day, Riefle said he and the other Seabees made their way back to their mates who were unloading supplies on the beach. "I landed with my platoon at about noon on D-day and the beach was plenty hot." said one Seabee. "Some of my men were hit immediately. I had been hugging the sand for five minutes when a shell landed about 10 feet away. A piece of shrapnel cut through my entrenching shovel and buried itself in my pack not an inch from my back. "That shovel saved my life."

I've dragged it over the beach ever since and I aim to take it back home, varnish it and hang it over the mantle." MM3C. Leo J. O'Malley of Portland, Ore., another member of the party, decided to dig his beach fox-hole even deeper as enemy fire became increasingly intense. With the first swipe of his shovel he uncovered a pack of cigarettes, a hand grenade and a can of beer. "I lit a cigarette," said O'Malley, "put the grenade where it would be handy, and then tested the beer to make sure it wasn't some new kind of Japanese booby trap. It wasn't! It was—well, just the luck of the Irish!" The Seabees and the Marines toiled side by side in the water and the volcanic sand. Under heavy enemy fire, their supply party unloaded "amtracs" and landing craft. They operated bulldozers and helped clear wrecked and disabled vehicles from the beach. All of this was necessary before their first job — getting the airfield in operation could begin.

## GUNNERS, FIRST CLASS, TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT April 3, 1945

It's a long cry from Broadway to Iwo Jima, but Jimmy Durante's classic comment, "Ev'rybody wants ta get in ta da act !", well describes the activities of Seabees Frederick E. Althaus, SF2C, of Lowell, Michigan, and Earl R. Elliott F1C, of Akron, Ohio, who were bored with what they considered a routine construction assignment

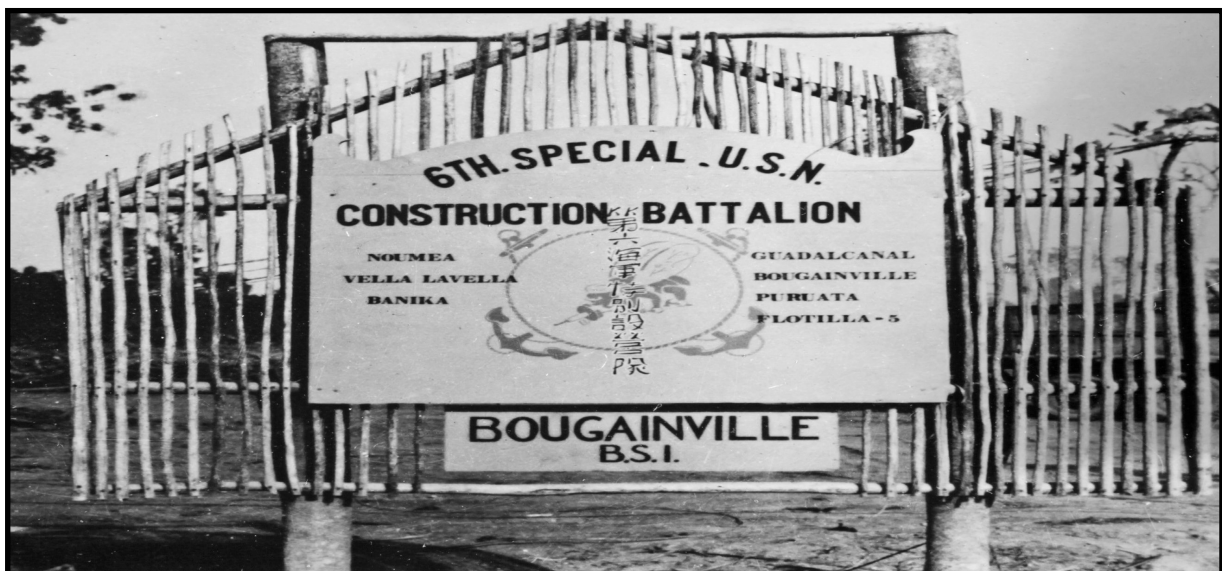


## SEABEES LAND WITH THE MARINES AT IWO JIMA

ALFRED H. TESHEE, 133RD. N.C.B. IWO JIMA 02/19/1945

We landed at H-Hour Plus 30 minutes with mortar shells exploding all around us from 50 yards out. I was an assistant bar man with the perimeter beach guard, and was carrying ammunition for my automatic rifleman. As soon as we hit the beaches we tried to dig in but it got too hot, and for protection we advanced to the terraces which rose from the beach to the air strip. The Japanese were entrenched everywhere, in pill-boxes, foxholes and even among the wrecked planes along the edge of the airfield. Machine gun and rifle fired from snipers was very heavy, but my partner had gone ahead with the bar, and I started to follow him. I was running when I was wounded in the left ankle. At first I thought I'd stepped on a mine...the explosion seemed to come from under my foot. I jumped into a ditch and thought I was safe from overhead fire, but when I turned my head, I found that I was lying next to a Japanese MINE.

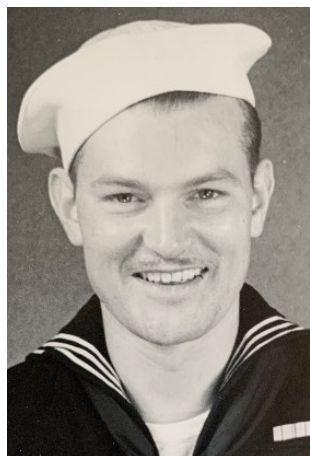
I moved about a dozen feet, and then tried to go on, to get my ammunition up to where it might be needed. I could feel the bullets going over me. A Marine Officer who came by told me to make it back to a shell hole on the beach where I find a medical corpsman taking care of some of the wounded men. I managed to crawl down there, where they gave me first aid treatment and then put me in an evacuation craft. The Japanese were shooting at the boat from Mount Surabachi, and it seemed about ready to fall apart anyway. There was about three inches of water in the bottom. However we got away and made it out to the hospital ship.





Poem (right) was submitted by Ralph Fallert's daughter Christine Kessides

Here is a paragraph that my father wrote in 1989 as an introduction to this poem when he printed a copy to share with family and friends. I thought this background and personal statement below, in his own words would be nice to include.



The following verses were written overseas during World War II, while I was with the SeaBees – briefly on American Samoa and for a longer time on Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides.”

Following Espiritu came a period of about a year back in the States, then transfer to Armed Forces Radio Service and again assignment overseas – this time on Iwo Jima, after it had been magnificently secured by the Marines and others. The verses “High Surf on Iwo Jima” were written on Iwo at this time.

Although my father said he didn't actually take part personally in this battle under his assignment with Armed Forces Radio, he served as an announcer for the first memorial service that took place after the battle.

My father passed away in 2002. He left me unpublished copies of this and other poems he wrote about his Service during the War. These poems were copyrighted but not officially published.

I don't have other details about Dad's assignments or experiences during the War. Put simply, he was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA and spent most of his professional career as a radio and TV announcer in the Pittsburgh market (a career that was launched by his work in Armed Forces Radio). He graduated from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, which he always credited with instilling his love of poetry.

*Thank you Christine for submitting. The story and poem are priceless and heart-warming for us and we appreciate you sharing these precious memories from your father.*

## POETRY CORNER

### HIGH SURF ON IWO JIMA

By Ralph G. Fallert

**Majestically it comes,  
Graceful, undulant,  
gathering strength.**

**And now it breaks  
Like a great scroll unrolling  
Like a rank of chargers  
Taking a barrier  
Their long white manes  
Loosed to the wind.**

**Over they go,  
Stampeding to the beach,  
Racing—leaping.  
A wild white fury  
That smashes to snowy splinters.  
On the great jagged feet of Suri-  
bachi.**

**Then draws itself back,  
Like a wounded thing  
Making a low growling thunder  
On the gravel as it goes.**

**Strange conflict, this  
The patient rock  
Against the fluent constancy of  
Water.**

**That is one moment shattered,  
And the next is whole.**

**The surf pounds fruitlessly,  
And yet,  
Ten thousand years away,  
The tireless sea will splash upon  
A different shore.**

**Today the surf is high,  
Prodigal of its power,  
Thunderous—terrifying-  
Magnificent!  
Yesterday the sea was calm,  
And tomorrow subsiding  
To a gentle music that floats  
Across the quiet graves of  
Iwo Jima**



Seeking to rescue a Marine who was drowning in the surf at Iwo Jima, these six Army heroes narrowly missed meeting their own deaths when their amphibian truck was swamped by heavy seas, 11 March 1945.

**L-R, back row:** T/5 L. C. Carter, Jr., Private John Bonner, Jr., Staff Sergeant Charles R. Johnson.

**L-R, front row:** T/5 A. B. Randle, T/5 Homer H. Gaines, and Private Willie Tellie

Photo from WWII National Archives



Barney Leone, 94, holds the flag from his ship anchored off Iwo Jima the morning the Marines raised the flag on Mount Suribachi 74 years ago. The West Hills retired minister takes it with him when he talks to local high school students about the freedoms they enjoy because of the Marines who fought and died there.

(Courtesy Photo)





# FINAL CALL



**HEAD, James**  
Sterling Heights, Michigan  
5th. Marine Division  
1925—2019

**FINN, Howard**  
2018

**MITCHELL, Paul V.**  
Ewing, New Jersey  
Iwo Jima  
4th Marine Division  
1905—2020

**REYNOLDS, David**  
Richmond, MA  
4th Marine Division  
September 2020

**TARALDSEN USN, David**  
Youngstown, Arizona  
2021

**BIDLELMAN, Porter,**  
USN, LCI (Ret)  
Iwo Jima  
2021

**ESHBACH, John**  
Iwo Jima  
2020

**LAURIELLO Jr. , John**  
Oaklyn, NJ November  
November, 2019



**HUGHES, Elwood, (Woody)**  
Iwo Jima  
February, 2020

**SCHWARTING, Walter**  
Las Vegas , NV  
Iwo Jima

**COPE, Walter H.**  
Berlin, NJ  
1925—2020

**MABEE, Richard B.**  
Florida, NY  
Iwo Jima  
4th. Marine Division  
1926—2020

**MEYERS, Russ**  
Raton, Fl  
Iwo Jima  
1924—2020

**LEMME, Thomas**  
4th. Marine Div, G-2-25  
2021

**VINEYARD, Donald Arthur-**  
Bakersfield, CA  
July, 2007

**SOMERHALDER, Jacob**  
Burlington, Oklahoma  
Dec 12, 2019

## *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.*

# Remembrance

## TETSU UEMURA

The Iwo Jima Association of America greatly regrets the loss of a sincere friend in Japan. Mr. Tetsu Uemura died in Tokyo in April 2020. Tetsu was a renowned film and television producer in Japan and internationally. He was the recipient of numerous professional awards for excellence and innovation in his field. A graduate of Occidental College in California, Tetsu spoke fondly of his undergraduate years in America.

Tetsu was a strong supporter of the Iwo Jima Association of America. Thanks in part to his close friendship with the American television producer, Mr. Arnold Shapiro. Tetsu was well-informed regarding the importance of the US-Japan Security Treaty.

In February 2020 myself along with our IJAA President, MajGen David Bice, and our wives, entertained Tetsu Uemura at a luncheon intended to thank him for his loyal support, both financial and personal of the IJAA's mission. Unbeknown at the time, it was a farewell meeting with a true friend.

He will always be missed and always remembered.

LtGen Norman Smith , USMC  
IJAA Chairman of the Board

## DIANE LYNN KUEBLER

Diane Lynn Kuebler lived in Chesthill, MA passed away on November 15, 2020.

She was a dedicated and committed supporter of Iwo Jima Association of American and veterans.

Her passion was researching Seabee involvement during the WWII and focusing on Iwo Jima where her father served in the Navy's 31st Construction Battalion as a Seabee. She made two trips to Iwo Jima and spoke to reunion groups and at symposiums regarding the Seabees' activity on Iwo Jima and other South Pacific locations. For many years, she has corresponded with numerous veterans and others she met during her travels around the country giving talks.

She participated with war reenactment groups in New England and other areas portraying a nurse in WWI and WWII.

In her obituary her final request was "In memory of me, do a kind deed for a veteran or military person."

IJAA is grateful and appreciative for loving support and knowledge through the years.

## NOTABLE QUOTES

America did not invent human rights.  
In a very real sense, it is the other  
way around. Human rights invented  
America  
Jimmy Carter

Americans are optimists. They  
hope they'll be wealthy someday—  
-and they're positive they can get  
one more brushful of paint out of  
an empty can.  
Author unknown

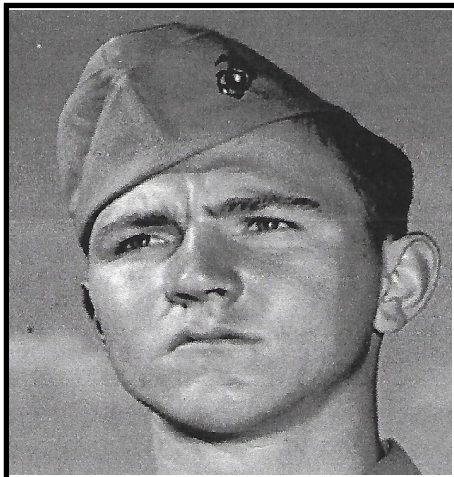
## MY STORY

**CPL RAYMOND HEISE USMC**

**Hometown—Central Lake, MI**

**SAIPAN - TINIAN —IWO JIMA**

I grew up in Devils Lake, North Dakota a farm-boy. When I was nine years old my father died. We lost the farm through bad weather, no rain and no money to pay bills forced us to move after auctioning off everything we owned.



We then moved into the town of Devils Lake and went on welfare 1935. Went to school through 9th Grade. Along with my two brothers, Fred and Larry, we cleaned at a bar/restaurant.

In late fall of 1939 after my brothers and myself finished fall harvesting at a neighbors farm (too young to work), we all took a Greyhound bus to Detroit and lived along with our mother on Fourth Street next to the Hollywood Theater.

I worked at the Bethlehem Church doing everything but being the pastor. Then ended up working for the Railway Express Company.

While working at the Express, I turned 18 years old and got my notice to go to the service. Had my physical and departed on November 12, 1943.

I made boot camp ok, no problems but, the last 4 days I got sick, "cat fever". After that I graduated as a PFC. Was then sent to Oceanside with 20 recruits to start a BN and completed the 5th Amphibious Tract Battalion. Then came in approximately 165 new Amphibious Tracts for us to take into combat. They could go where no boat could go, manned by 3 Marines.

After 2-3 months of training, the men and tanks were assigned. I was a qualified driver so that left me with that job as a Corporal and Crew Chief. Tanks were run by 7 cylinder, air-cooled continental engines with Caterpillar-type tracks to propel them.

We then left training area by ships called "LST", Landing Ship Tank, door open in front of ship. We landed on Hawaiian Islands for more training. Then on Maui Island for our assigned camp and more training.

Then while sailing toward the Mariana Islands, still had more practice including other areas. Also picking up more troops as we sailed along. I overcame sea sickness.

We were never told where we were headed but, it took about 33 days at sea getting a complete Military Group together. Day before

June 6th, we were told we were going to take island of Saipan. It was in the Mariana Group Islands.

Then came the early hour of June 6th, we dropped anchor within 2 miles of the shore. Could see the Coral Reef in front of us, already aerial bombing was going on. (Didn't sleep all night, played poker, carried about \$19.00 in my pocket, half of which were coins.)

About day break, approximately 0700 hours, our ship's bow doors opened. Men, crews on tanks, along with infantry men, were told to get in our Amph Tracks, which could hold about 15 men depending on what they were carrying. Most of us got over the reef. A couple got turned over.

Now, firing from Japanese on shore and inland came at us all the while we tried to make shore. Most of us made it. From

then on, it was hell for 3-4 weeks.

I landed my Amph. Trac. on the beach of Saipan, got unloaded. My crew dispersed and I went close by. I saw injured Marines being loaded by other Marines. When loaded, someone asked, who could drive this tank. I said "I could."

I alone, lost my crew, took the injured, about a dozen, out to sea again over the Coral Reef. I knew what ships had doctors on them. You should have at least 2 crew men on board to be going

**I alone, lost my crew,  
took the injured out to  
sea again .....**

Continued next page

Heise cont.

to board a ship. Anyway, I was able to tie up to a ship. None of the wounded could help. I then returned to shore with more men and supplies. This happened within the first hour on shore.

A week to 10 days later, our group and infantry, along with new men continued on to an adjoining island called Tinian about 10 miles away.

The approach was different but, we all made it. They never suspected we'd land there.

Our main job was to take wounded men back to Hospital Ships, bring more troops in, plus ammo and supplies. Once a temporary hospital to be set on the island, we still handled the troops on and off the island. When the Island was secured, we returned to Saipan. Still got night bombings from Tokyo.

We left the island, returned to Maui, our Main Base to re-group with new tanks and replacements of new men.

About a month later on Maui at a Saturday inspection, they handed out awards. To this day, I never knew who had placed me for this award, the Bronze Star, however, it was for action I took within the hour of landing at Saipan.

We were at a good place to re-group, out of a combat area and a good place to swim in the ocean. And it was a good liberty place.

We stayed there until about January '45, then back on the LSTs loaded and with the Marine Infantry. We knew we would be back in combat. Scared, but didn't show it. We had one Marine in my company who brought a trumpet with him and played for us. He packed it up to send it to his mother stating

"I won't be using this any more." Sure enough, on the following island, "Two", he got killed. So, as we were sailing to our destination, we were again picking up more ships and troops with all kind of gear of different nature.

We sailed in all kinds of rough water, including a typhoon, lost some small water craft with men aboard. Also, ships had to keep all outside lights off.

This was the first we were told what our destination was.....it would be Iwo Jima and we told we were going to take the island.

Our whole group of ships arrived including Air Craft about 0700 hours. Planes were already firing on the island. The plan was to attack the Island of Iwo at 0800 hours on February 19, 1945. We went in by waves by our Amph. Trac, all loaded with troops. I was in 6th wave, approximately five minutes apart. Naturally, we were scared to hell.

Shooting never stopped 24 hours-a-day. Some of our tanks were blown up with men aboard. "Nobody stopped for lunch."



I was within a 1/2 mile of where the flag was raised on the top of Mt. Suribachi. I knew one of the flag raisers, Charles Lindberg. (He was part of the first flag raiser detail).

One B-29 Pilot called about 4th day stated he had motor trouble and needed to land. He was given permission. Air strips were worked for 24 hours.

Also, saw Tyrone Powers landed a plane on the Island.

You weren't safe on any part of the 7 mile Island.

My job, again, was first to bring in fresh troops in and take out wounded troops. I made it out not being shot for 25 days when the island was secured.

On the last day my crew was to board ship. But one of my crew men went hunting souvenirs and got himself shot and killed in a cave. Sad day.

We loaded what Amph. Tracs were able to and went onto Maui. Back on Maui, we again got new Amph. Tracs with Cadillac engines, plus new replacements, plus some of us got R&R and were sent to the Grand Hotel on adjoining Island of Oahu. Cost each one .25 cents a day.

Years later I was back in the same hotel with my wife and son Kevin, who was in the Navy at that time and who came to meet us there.

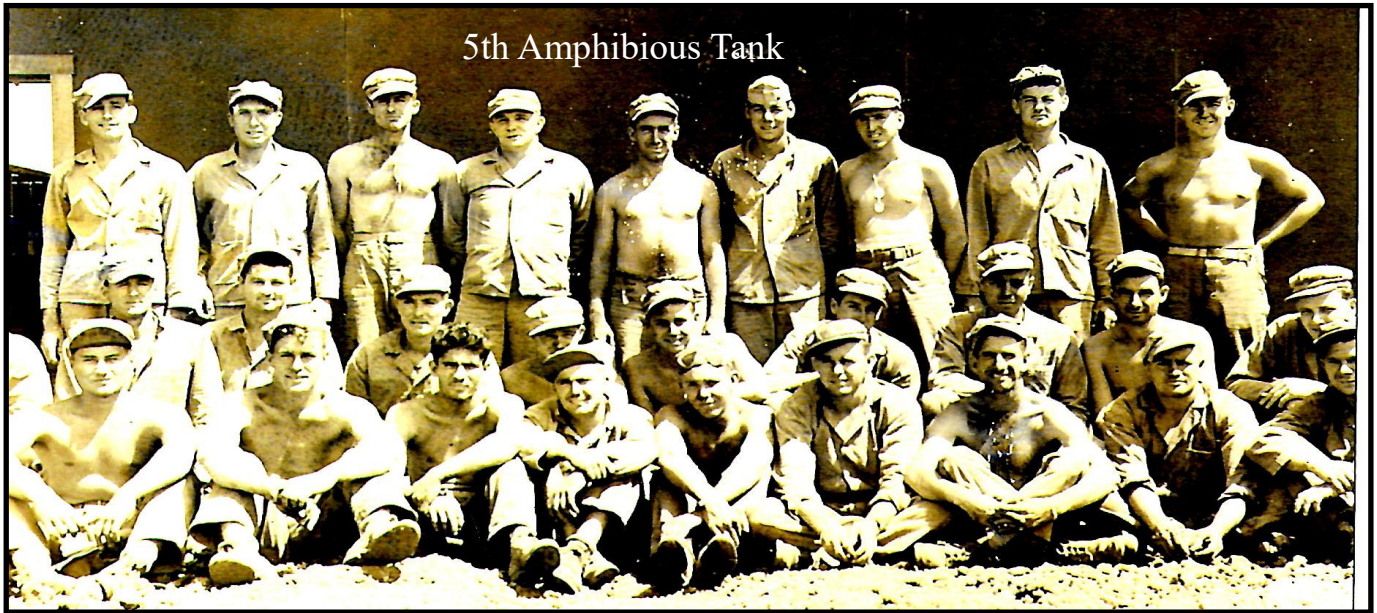
When the war ended, I had enough points to be released on the second call. What a surprise. Never thought I'd ever go home.

I returned to Camp Pendleton Marine Base by sailing home on the U.S. Iowa. Arrived a day before Thanksgiving. Next day headed by train to Great Lakes, Illinois for discharge which was at noon on December 7, 1945. Home on the Twilight Limited. Surprised my mother.

Continued. next page



Heise cont.



From then went on back to work at Rail Way Express until 1952. Married and had four sons, Bruce, Douglas, Russell and Kevin (who join me at our military reunions). Then joined the Detroit Police Force. Good job. Worked uniform 12 years and got promoted to Det. Sgt. in Detective Division . Resided in Bellaire, MI

I had 40-50 days of combat and was never shot until I was a detective. Was shot in the foot by an escaped prisoner. "Got my prisoner and still loved my job."

Following my retirement from the police department I have devoted most of my free time promoting veterans causes and the Lions Club causes.



### **Additional Life - Savings Experience** **Police Officer Heise**



1. One night I was working alone at the "cell block" and a prisoner said to me I should check the next cell. I found the prisoner hanging. I cut him down and brought him back to life.
2. Saved my friend's 3 year old boy at our house. He was eating popcorn and choked. My friend yelled "do something". I picked him up by the ankles and rapped him on the back and finally out popped the popcorn.
3. I had a police hold-up run to Bagley Avenue near a home. Another scout car beat me to the run. The officer got shot. I held him in my arms until the ambulance arrived. As it was a Saturday night, the ambulance arrived late. He died while I held his head off of the sidewalk. His shooter got shot by my partner.



Heise Cont.



**VETERANS  
ARE MEN AND WOMEN  
WHO WILL STAND UP  
FOR THEIR COUNTRY  
PAST  
PRESENT  
FUTURE  
SO HELP US GOD**

## **RAYMOND HEISE USMC**

**Vision - Dedication - Commitment**

### **Central Lakes, IL Cemetery "Veterans Memorial"**



“ I thought about this memorial for a long time as I watched it deteriorate. Finally after years requesting the city for action, they finally agreed for me to start the restoration. I already had plans and drawing designed.” After the approval, along with 2 friends, we dug in. Through generous donations and the Central Lake, IL VFW, the money was there for us to build the new memorial.

It was completed and dedicated on Memorial Day, 2017’





## FREEDOM TRAIN

The first Freedom Train was proposed in April 1946 by Attorney General Tom C. Clark, who believed that Americans had begun taking the principles of liberty for granted in the post-war years of which President Truman concurred. The idea was adopted by a coalition that included Paramount Pictures and the Advertising Council, which had just changed its name from "War Advertising Council".

The ALCO PA diesel-electric locomotive pulled the train, which carried the original versions of the United States Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Truman Doctrine, and the Bill of Rights on its tour of more than 300 Cities in all (48) of the states in 1947. The 1936 Rexall Train had come close to visiting all of the states but missed Nevada.

The train passed through segregated southern states, where black and white passengers rode in separate cars. The Truman administration announced in September 1947 a policy of desegregation for the train.

Top Marines were selected to attend to the train and its famous documents. The Marine contingent was led by Col. Robert F. Scott. With polite and firm prodding the Marines hurried through as many as 1200 persons an hour, giving each an average of three seconds to look at each exhibit. As they shuffled through the beige-green cars, they listened to regional and patriotic music played over a public address system and to a 'move faster' exhortation by a suave Marine voice which came through the speaker every time a record changed. The Freedom Train even had an official song, written by Irving Berlin and performed by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters.



The second Freedom Train, the American Freedom Train, toured the country in 1975-76 to commemorate the United States Bicentennial. This 26-car train was powered by three newly restored steam locomotives. The first to pull the train was the former Reading Company Tk-1 class 4-8-4 steam locomotive that is still operating. The third was the former Texas & Pacific 2-10-4, which pulled the train in Texas. Due to light rail loadings and track conditions on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, diesels hauled the train from New Orleans to Mobile, Alabama.

The train itself consisted of 10 display cars, converted from New York Central and Penn Central baggage cars. They carried more than 500 treasures of Americana, including George Washington's copy of the Constitution, the original Louisiana Purchase, Judy Garland's dress from the Wizard of Oz, Joe

Frazier's boxing trunks, Martin Luther King Jr.'s pulpit and robes, replicas of Jesse Owens' four Olympic gold medals from 1936 (one was stolen somewhere along the way). Also displayed Wilt Chamberlain's basketball shoes, and a rock from the moon. Its tour of all 48 contiguous states lasted from April 1, 1975 until December 31, 1976. More than 7 million Americans visited the train during its tour, while millions more stood trackside to see it go by.

## LETTER FROM IWO JIMA TO FRIEND

March 13, 1945

Iwo Jima

*Dear Sir (Charlie),*

*It has been quite some time since I last wrote you but as you may have surmised, I have been rather busy. Your v-mail reached me when I was still in our training camp, somewhere overseas but I left soon after. To give you an idea of the vast expanse of the Pacific, I'll mention that I was aboard one ship or another without end for 40 days. It's not much fun aboard a troop transport but right now I would really welcome the opportunity to climb up the old cargo nets again.*

*In your last letter you asked me to tell you about any action I've seen. Well, I guess the newspapers can give about as much anyone but I'll tell you what I can remember.*

*The whole invasion didn't seem real when our Amphtrack first left ship. We felt as though it was another one of those many practice maneuvers we had experienced. . Of course there was the unmistakable bombardment of the Navy's ships and the diving planes which by the way my crew and I would in a matter of minutes attempt to control by radio and lead to targets of opposition.*

*Seeing that island loom up in front of me seemed not at all strange. The mountain (Suribachi), was a few hundred yards to our left. We had the job of cutting across the island on the strip directly in front of that rocky fortress The darn thing was just a honeycomb of caves and the only Japanese we saw up till then were those who occasionally ran from one to the other. Our wave hit twelve minutes after the big hour and as soon as we beached everyone was ready to rush out. There was only one thing wrong, the door was stuck and any minute a mortar might send us sky high. All I saw in front of me was terrace after terrace of black sand shells bursting all over the Marines dodging, here and there. My Lieutenant had shoved off and it was my job to find him and get my boys there with the now more than ever valuable radio equipment which they carried. Every time I put up my head there was the tick-tick-tick of a Japanese Naboo machine gun.*

*Continued next page*



Letter

*After a while you get so angry that the snipers no longer phase you and you run carelessly.*

*The last thing I can remember about the beach was tht I dove into a hole and in so doing, caused dirt to fall into one of our riflemen's weapon. At first he smacked it but then he said "Oh, well, why be one way", meaning that he didn't care. Just then a friend of mine,*

*from one of our  
to the same hole  
and bleeding.  
his sock and  
powder and*

**.....the beach was so hot  
none knew where anyone else  
was, and the corpsmen were  
so busy treating the wound-**

*Sgt. Wormeer,  
companies fell in-  
minus one boot  
While I ripped off  
poured Sulphur  
bandages into the*

*holes in his ankle, heel and thigh, he was telling me about his buddy who was just killed right beside him.*

*About this time the beach was so hot that none knew where anyone else was, and the corpsmen were so busy treating wounded men that I just called in vain. A doctor running nearby heard me and jumped in so I took off in hopes of getting to the top of the hill. I guess there must have been quite a few casualties on the way up but you don't feel much like talking so for all one knows they are just laying low.*

*One of our boys didn't get up to us until about four hours later, so we borrowed that part of the equipment which he was carrying and hoped he would show up. During a lull while I was sitting in somewhat of a ditch trying to dodge the ever-present snipers I spoke to a young boy who was laying on his stomach and had a patch on his back He spoke jokingly and complained not, although I knew he must have been in some pain because I later found out that his intestines were hanging out.*

*The stench reached my nostrils. It was a smell that I had never experienced.*

Continued on next page

*Our next phase was squeezing the enemy around the back of Suribachi and actually climbing the cliffs and driving them out of their caves.*

*We spent a gruesome night up there on the first position and slept very little. The mountain was still quite active and mortar shells landed all around us. To guard against infiltration, our area was illuminated all night by parachute flares which emit a ghostly fluorescence and cause shadows to move about.*

*The enemy is seldom seen because they lurk in caves and pill boxes and so it was not until the next day that I actually saw the mangled body of one of them. It was while my unit was moving up to one of our companies for better observation that the nauseating stench reached my nostrils.*

*It was with a heavy toll of casualties that our troops secured our end of the island but they did it and on February 24 at 10:38 OLD GLORY was raised on the highest peak of Mt. Suribachi.*

*We camped on that side of the island just below the mountain for a few days while replacements were brought in and the men rested. Did I say camped? What I meant was that we dug foxholes large enough for 2 or 3 men and lay in these muddy holes drenched to the skin and teeth chattering like riveting machines. It was the dry season we were told, but oh well, maybe somebody didn't get the "word."*

*I awoke one night to hear an excited fellow ask us to help carry some ammo down to the beach about a hundred yards away. He mentioned something about a counter-landing. That really woke me up. We were alert the rest of that night while machine guns chattered and rifles cracked. About thirty of the trapped Japanese had apparently decided to swim around the point of the mountain and slip through our lines or do as much damage as*

Continued on next page

Letter

*possible. Most of them were finished off, but one got around behind us and while crawling through a ditch came upon some of our sleeping men. Upon seeing the men move he started slashing away with his enormous Samurai sword. One boy had his heel cut out and a bullet put the attacker out of circulation.*

*From there we moved north to secure the western side of the island. The terrain began to look very much like the bad lands out west and when we dug our foxholes a volcanic steam rose from the clay-like soil. Steam heated foxholes, what more could we ask for. Resistance became increasingly stiff and the wind raised a volcanic dust which blinded and choked us and jammed up our rifles*

**Volcanic steam rose from the clay-like soil. Steam heated our foxholes.....**

*The Japanese had dug rooms and tunnels many feet down into the rock and at one place where we had our command post, it was not until two days after we had been there that our men dragged several live enemies out from directly below us.*

*The enemy was quite desperate for food and water so it was not strange to catch them sneaking to our dumps at night often dressed in dead marines clothing.*

*Progress has been very slow lately but the island is almost taken so I hope the Army moves in soon to garrison this hell hole on which I am leaving so many of my friends whose last resting place it has become.*

*I'm still hoping that you will try to find a spot for me at the new York office when I get back. Regards to all the gang.*

*Sincerely,*

*Karl*

*S/Sgt.K.E.Schmidt*

Continued next page

## Letter

Thank you Justin Moore Jr., of Cheshire, CT for sending this detailed and described letter on Sgt. Schmidt's accounting of his time on Iwo Jima.. He found this letter amongst his mother's papers after her death. His mother, lived at one time in Long Island, NY and had a first cousin name Charlie, but Justin did not know him nor Sgt Schmidt. In reference to the gang ...at the New York Office, again that is unknown to what it referred to.

If by chance any of our readers knew Sgt Karl Schmidt, Justin would be very pleased to hear from you.



## DID YOU EVER WONDER???????

Today I went into a shoe store that ONLY sells shoes. A young girl with tattoos and green hair walked over to me and asked, "What brings you in today?" I looked at her and said, "I'm interested in buying a refrigerator." She didn't know how to respond, had that deer in the headlights look.

When people see a cat's litter box, they always say, "Oh, have you got a cat?" I just say, "no, it's for company!"

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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.

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership—Iwo Jima Veteran | \$15.00                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Membership—Legacy Member    | \$25.00                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership             | \$25.00                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Member                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |

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Unit served with on Iwo Jima & Dates \_\_\_\_\_

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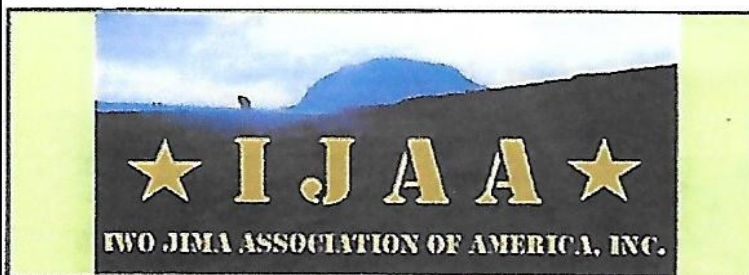
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All personal & contact information is maintained in strict confidence.



Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc  
P.O. Box 680 Quantico, VA 22134  
Phone: 703-212-8128 Fax: 703-590-1292  
e-mail: [Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org](mailto:Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org)  
website: [www.IwoJimaAssociation.org](http://www.IwoJimaAssociation.org)  
A 501(c) (3) veterans organization



## Sergeant Major Mike Mervosh USMC (Ret)



### “IRON MIKE”

Sergeant Major Mike D. Mervosh was born 14 June 1923 in Pittsburgh, PA. He graduated from South High School, Pittsburgh and Mira Costa College, Oceanside, CA.

5th Marines. After two tours in Vietnam with the 1st Marine Division, he was awarded this third Navy Commendation Medal and third Purple Heart.

Between wars he served in five different Marine Divisions making countless operations and deployments in the Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean, and Mediterranean.

He attended formal schools, i.e., Infantry Weapons School, New River, NC. First Ser-

Following his recruit training at Parris Island, SC and infantry training at New River, NC, he was one of first Marines activated in the forming

of the 4th Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, CA. It was the only Division that left the States and went directly into combat in WWII and the first unit to land on Japanese mandated islands. While with the 4th Marine Division, he participated in the Battles of Roi-Namur, Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima.

Between battles, while afloat and located on the island of Maui, he won the Division Middle Weight Boxing Championship, before being forced to retire from the ring because of wounds received on Saipan and Iwo Jima.

Besides the two Purple Heart Medals for his wounds, he was also awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his heroic actions on Iwo Jima while serving as a Machine Gun Section Leader, Rifle Platoon commander and Company Commander. He remained with the 4th Marine Division until its deactivation after WWII at Camp Pendleton, CA. Upon his retirement he was the last enlisted member of the 4th Marine Division to leave its ranks.

While in Korea with the 1st Marine Division, was awarded the Bronze Star and second Navy Commendation Medal for his heroic actions while serving with “G” Co, 3rd Battalion

*Through all the battles fought and 36 days on Iwo,  
“Iwo Jima was the worst”.*

Instructors School, Parris Island, SC (twice), due to the different types of drill (8man, 13man, and LPM drill. He also had two tours of recruiting duty and two tours on the drill field.

During his 19 1/2 years as a Sergeant Major he served as a battalion, regimental, brigade, station, base and division Sergeant Major. His final assignment was as the Fleet Marine Force, Pacific Sergeant Major from 1971 to 1977, the largest field Command in the Marine Corps.

His date of rank of 14 February 1958 as a Sergeant Major made him the most senior enlisted man of all the Armed Forces when he retired 1 September 1977 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii after 35 years of faithful service.



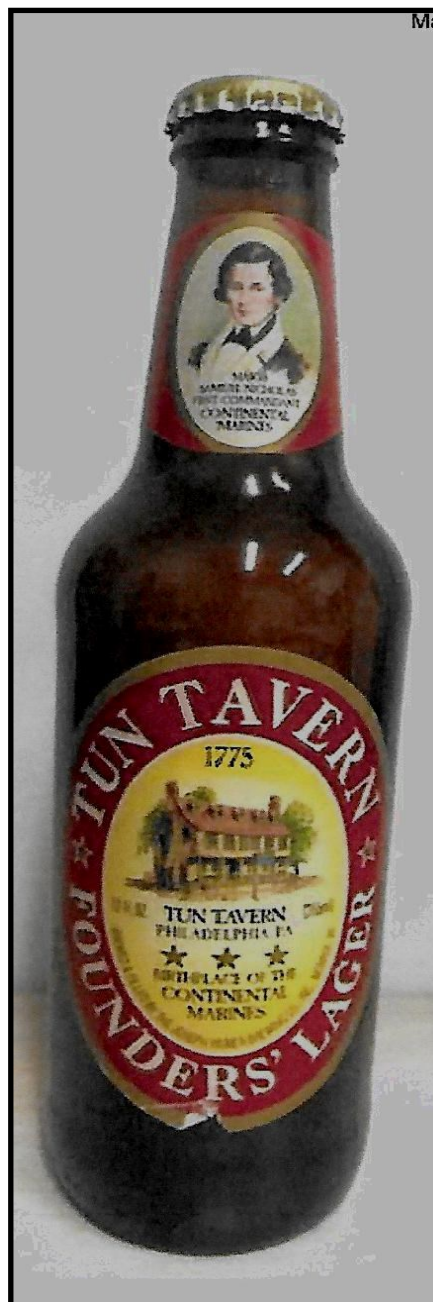
His personal decorations which span three wars, (WWII, Korea and Vietnam) include 11 personal combat awards with 13 battle stars, 10 unit citations and

numerous other campaign and service awards.

## FALL RIVER, MA IWO JIMA MONUMENT

In 2005 the Iwo Jima monument was built using the original design by Felix de Walden. Attorney Brian Cunha made this possible through his donation. Through the years the area suffered from neglect and most people in the area were not even aware of it's existence. In 2010, the Marine Corps League went to the mayor and city to ask if they could take over the monument maintenance. Businesses donated materials and labor to help restore the years of neglect. Bricks were sold and placed around the monument. These funds also helped support the ongoing maintenance that was required. Each year a Memorial Service is held to honor this infamous time in the history of America.

Submitted by: Commandant LCpl John J  
Van Gyzen ,Det. 1285  
Marine Corps League



### INFAMOUS TUN TAVERN BEER

John Beele, who for 33 years carried the beautiful Iwo Jima flag obtaining signatures of Iwo Jima Veterans and then donated it to IJAA at the 75th Anniversary gathering in 2020, and at the same time he opened his last bottle of beer from Tun Tavern (that he had for many years). It was passed around for all of the Iwo Veterans who were present. They shared a sip (out of the bottle), and as they say, "to polish it off." It was a well fermented brew!.



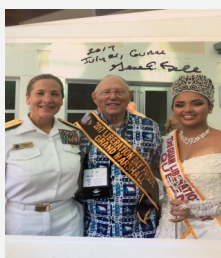
## DO YOU KNOW

If you are seeking to find a Iwo Jima veteran, please send your request to:

Annette Loper, Editor  
IJAA Black Sands  
P.O. Box 680  
Quantico, VA 22134-0680

## HELP--REQUESTS

Bob Debrino is asking if you knew his father, **Albert A. Debrino**, who was born in 1925. He was at Camp Pendleton, 4th. Division, 25th Marines. He passed away 20 years ago. Contact bob: Bdebrino@icloud.com



I am trying to contact **Gene Bell** who took part on the liberation of Guam in July 1944. Both of my parents are Guamanian and we were small children when Marines and Navy liberated the island. I would like to thank Gene for his service and for helping save the local Guamanian people. Gene has been back to Guam many times over the years to help celebrate the liberation.

Please contact me, Johnny Gogo 408-757-1526

Duane Harris is looking for information on his uncle, **Pvt James Wesley "Jack" Harris**. He believes he was with the 25th. Marines. Harris was KIA on Iwo Jima.

Please contact Duane at: snakebitemcghee@gmail.com

# Laughter Corner

Laughter is the shortest distance  
between 2 people.



"Dear, it's our next door neighbor, he'd like to borrow 30 pounds of sugar and a sack of potatoes."



"I have a surprise Mom, I brought my boss home for dinner."





***WE WANT YOU—  
Veteran and Family  
Can we feature your story?  
Your story is one to be told/  
shared.***

***Include:***

Where did you grew up.

Family growing up and now.

When did you enter the military—volunteered or drafted ?

Boot camp (traveled by bus, train, car)?

Military schools. Awards/ribbons. Rank on discharge?

Where did you serve?

Memorable experiences—events that can never be forgotten....?

What did you do after service? Hobbies, etc.?

And what you would just like to share?

If you have difficulty writing your story, do your best or call and we will chat with you and write it for you. And pictures are welcomed.

***YOUR STORY IS IMPORTANT***

***Mail to: Black Sands Editor, IJAA  
P.O. Box 680,  
Quantico, VA 22134***

Correction Fall 2020 Black Sands . Article on Bob Mueller by Ray Elliott. “On the morning of February 23, Bob was part of a four-man patrol that set out to Climb the **EAST** side of Mount Suribachi.

“....wounded on March 9 but returned to the company the same day, spent all 36 days of the battle “**on Iwo Jima, and went back to the Big Island of Hawaii....**”



## 2020 RAFFLE WINNERS

M-1 Carbine: Gerard Shaugnessy, Nazareth, PA

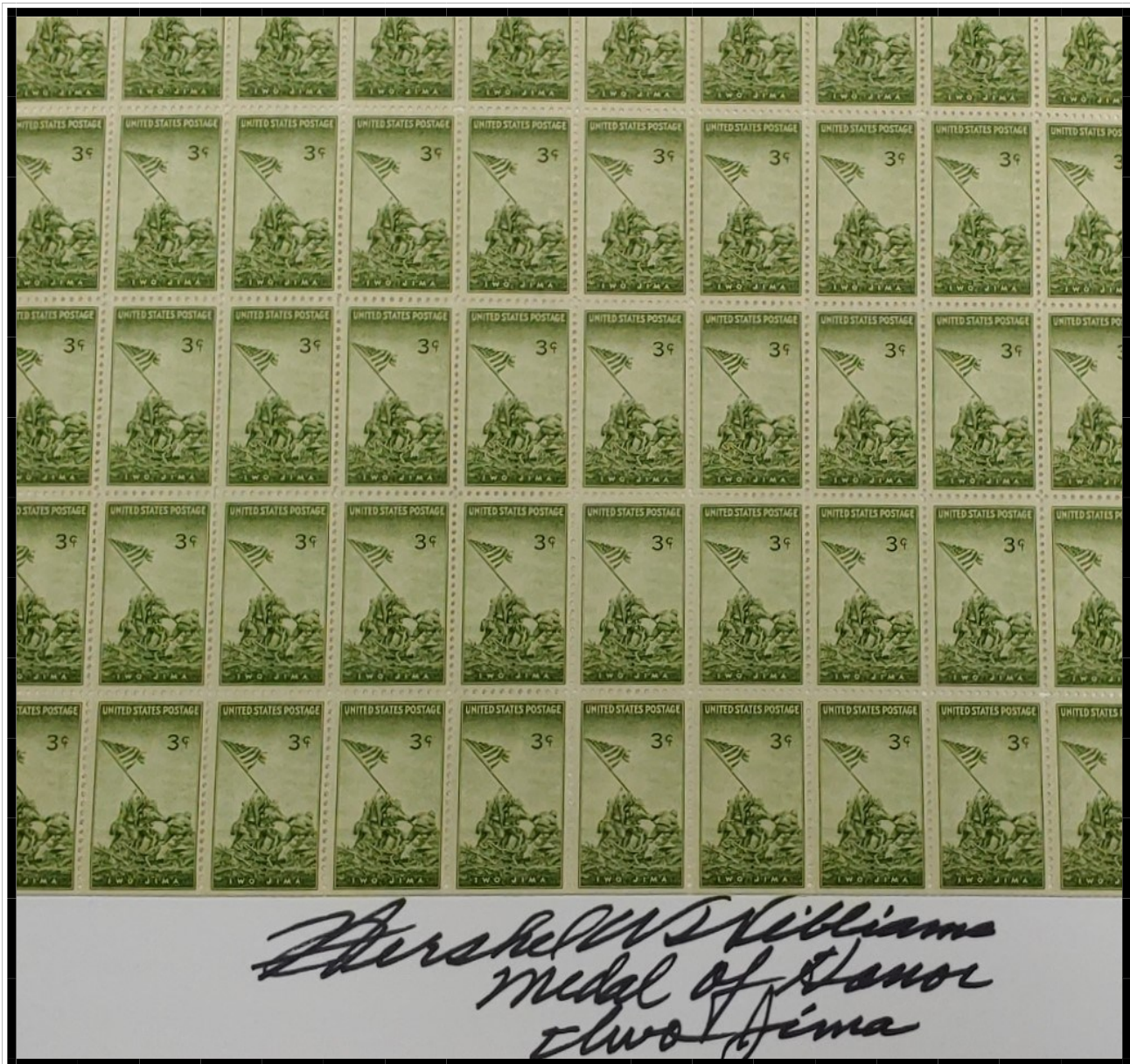
75th Throw Blanket: Richard Masterson, No. Providence, RI

Iwo Jima Flag: Donald Mates—Palm Beach, FL

### 30 ORIGINAL ISSUED IWO JIMA STAMPS

Signed by Hershel "Woody" Williams, Medal of Honor

(See merchandise order form on page 43.)



## MICHAEL FELICE USMC

Introduction: Article submitted by Jeffrey Filice Jr., grandson of Michael A. Filice who was a Marine that fought on Iwo Jima with company F, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Division. Jeff and his wife were scheduled to attend the 75th. Anniversary trip to Iwo Jima. In preparation for this he prepared by gathering a “treasure trove” of information he had inherited after his grandfather’s passing.

“ The dictated Q&A was a personal request by me to my daughter Deborah Anderson in 2006 ,around the time that *Flags of Our Fathers* was out. My grandfather rarely spoke about the war, but he had a few stories that he told when asked and these were documented. He spoke often about his friend Al Hyrea and after his passing we found the letter from Al and photos that were buried for 65 years.’

Editor Note: Jeffrey, we appreciate and value you submitting this article.

### Question **What is your personal account of Iwo Jima and some of the things you remember?**



I started out in the 31st replacement company and then I was assigned to the 2nd battalion, 28th regiment, 5th Marine Division. I don’t remember the exact wave it was I landed in, but it was the first day of the invasion. I don’t know how we won the war. Squads were separated and we didn’t know where anyone was. We were under fire, I found my platoon, I don’t know how, then we dug foxholes and waited. It was slow. I remember going up the beach and a tank came along side of me. The guy from the tank said, “Want to come in?”. I told him that I couldn’t so he said, “Okay, stay under and follow us up.” I did. I also remember after our first battle, our clothes were all bloody and we were given soap to have our first bath. That felt great. After the beach was secured we unloaded food and ammunition from the ships. Once things got stabilized, we started going inland to secure the airfield. I remember we were unloading supplies on the beach, a navy sailor asks me to get him a Japanese gun as a souvenir. I did and in payment he brought tomatoes to my foxhole with loose pieces of dynamite that I lit to build a fire.

In our foxholes at night, sometimes they would give us brandy. It would help calm us and help with fear. When we saw the flag go up we thought we’d won the war. We fought for another 28 days. I remember getting mail delivered to me in my foxhole. I got a letter from Father Martin, my Prefect from Santa Clara University. He was a good guy, a good teacher. He wrote to tell me he had been ordained a priest.

### Question **Did you carry a flame thrower?**

I carried a flame thrower only once. A Lieutenant yelled, “Need a flame thrower,” and I said I’d do it. When you carried a flame thrower you were a target so you used it quickly and got rid of it as fast as you could. A flame thrower would be the first one they’d try to kill, so I emptied that s.o.b. fast and threw it off.

There was guy named Vic who was from Baltimore. He played crazy! He (Vic) said to me, “Are you staying here Mike? I’m getting out of here.” I saw him running down the mountain throwing off all his supplies. Vic left. When he got home he called my Granny and told her he knew me and that I was doing okay.

Continued on next page



**Felice cont**

**Question What happened after the American troops secured the airstrip?**

After securing the airstrip we continued to fight the Japanese . Towards the end I remember seeing them at the cliffs. They were jumping off the cliffs rather than surrendering. A lot of them were the elite troops and they were big and strong.

From Iwo Jima I went back to Hilo, Hawaii to prepare for the invasion of Japan. I was part of the peacekeeping troops in Sasebo on the Island of Fukuoka. I was there about one month. My father died and I came home. I didn't find out that my father died until I got a letter from my sister Marietta. The Red Cross didn't contact me. I traveled on a merchant ship to get home. I ate well on that ship but storms hit and I didn't think that boat would make it. It took about two to

three weeks to get home. I was home about two to three days then I went to San Francisco to take an aircraft carrier to San Diego. It took about four to five days to get discharged in San Diego, then finally flew back home.

**Question Any thoughts on the commendation and that experience?**

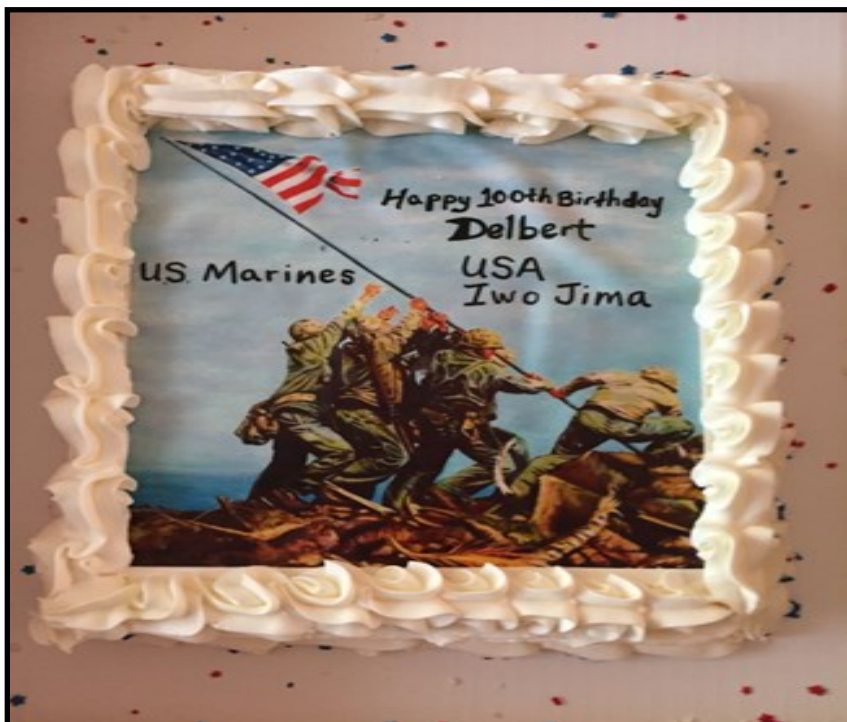
That experience is the highlight of my life. To save a life means something I heard his scream, he was calling to me. We are all comrades and you just do for them. How do you not help? There is no fear of death. All you can do is save a comrade. Three of us took turns carrying him back to our lines. We got him back but his body was shot up badly. By the time we got him to first aid he was dead.

**Question You went to see the new movie out about Iwo Jima, Clint Eastwood's *Flags of our Fathers*. Was it an accurate portrayal?**

To me it didn't really show what it was like on Iwo Jima. Not like the book did. It was too much about the flag raisers and not enough about what I saw. As far as the flag raisers go, the movie didn't show what a great soldier like Ira Hayes was. I knew him the best of all the flag raisers. He fought in 3 big campaigns before Iwo Jima. Guadalcanal one and Tarawa the other. He went through hell. He saw a lot and he came back. Then he came back again and I asked him, "Why the hell do you want to come back here?" He said, "I want to be back with my buddies. I don't like all that." He meant selling the war bonds with Bradley and Gagnon. We called him "chief". Rene Gagnon and I were in the same company, but I didn't know him well. Bradley was our corpsman. He was a good guy.

As far as being an accurate portrayal (the movie), I can tell you what I remember being the same. On invasion day, the synchronized landing was true. I remember all ships and if you did fall off on the way no one could stop to pick you up because everything had to be perfectly timed. Climbing down the rope ladders on the boat was exactly how it was. You could get hurt. Some guys were trying to get hurt so they didn't have to get on shore. Then, going up the hill to Mt. Suribachi was accurate, but the movie didn't touch on my experience on Iwo Jima like the book.





**IWO JIMA VETERAN  
-DELBERT STEVENS -  
HONORED ON HIS  
100TH BIRTHDAY  
WITH A SPECIAL  
CAKE RECOGNIZING  
HIM FOR HIS  
SERVICE ON  
IWO JIMA.**

**DELBERT STEVENS**

Lying asleep in a shallow shell-hole dug into black volcanic sand, awoke suddenly to a fellow Marine's shouts. "Here this one was sitting behind me, he was laying over me. And hell, I saw blood coming out of his mouth." A sniper had shot him, Stevens recalled.

It was early 1945, and Stevens was among thousands of US Marines fighting in the savage, monthlong slog across the barren island of Iwo Jima. Stevens was one of many who witnessed the iconic moment of the raising of the flag.

Stevens lives in an apartment adorned with symbols of his military service. On his wall is a knit eagle globe and anchor emblem and on display is a photograph of the Iwo Jima flag raising. A sign on his front door reads, "Through this hatch will pass the finest, most respected fighting man in the world: A UNITED STATES MARINE."

At the time of joining the Marines in 1943 he was 23 years old—older than most of his new comrades. At this time he was already married and young children at home. He was featured in local newspaper that he had joined "the fighting leathernecks and on his way to boot camp."

He was both in California and Hawaii, going through training. He eventually, as a corporal in the 28th Marine Regiment, part of the 5th Marine Division, on his way to Iwo Jima, was told by his commanders to expect a bloody attack and were told to expect 40 percent casualties. This was in 1945.

Stevens was considered the unit's clown, a big, redheaded Irishman asked to the delight of those around, "Is this trip really necessary?" And he discovered it was. After fierce fighting he witnessed the first and second flag being raised. During this time he suffered two wounds of which he provided his own first aid.

Following his discharge he returned to Pennsylvania and his family. He worked many years in construction and as a contractor. Two of his sons became Marines. His family can trace military service from WWI, Civil War, Vietnam and Korea.



# DONORS

Thank you for your support in order that IWO JIMA is never to be forgotten and all those who served that their service will be remembered.

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Hornsey, James  
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Hupp, Steven  
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Kozar, Jill  
Krasowski, Stefan  
Lamphier, Lesley  
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Maiden, Mike  
Malishenko, Taylor  
Marino, Herman  
Mlynarski, Gary  
Morgan, Gen George  
Murphy, James L  
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Nyland, Gen William  
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Mitchell, John  
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## Additional donors:

Coleman, LtGen Ron  
Cox, MajGen John  
Fulford, Gen Carl  
Howell, LtGen Jeff  
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Laster, LtGen Jim  
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Rice, MajGen Duff  
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## **WELCOME ABOARD!!!** **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

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MCL Virginia, North Chesterfield, VA  
MCLA, Winnebago, Oshkosh, WI  
MCL Dept of Wisconsin, Appleton, WI

One Good Deed—  
Leads to Another  
Good Deed



Bob, a Marine, and his wife Bonnie enjoyed a rare visit to their favorite restaurant. Prior to going, they ordered flowers for their favorite waitress, to be delivered directly to the restaurant. She was thrilled to receive such a thoughtful and unexpected gesture.

When it came time for Bonnie and Bob to pay their bill, the waitress informed them that a gentleman, who had already left, paid the bill. He told the waitress his son was a Marine and he wanted to do something special. (He noticed that on Bob's jacket a 3rd Marine Division patch as well as the Marine Corps patch.)

Two good deeds brought smiles and a warm heart to all. And as you hear the story, your heart is touched. And the story goes on for all.

## ADVERTISING CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Ad Size \_\_\_\_\_ Ad Cost: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Issues: \_\_\_\_\_  
Payment Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Type Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_  
Diners Club \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card No \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card if different than above \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Advertising Rates

#### Standard Black and White

Full Page (7 1/2" X 10 1/8")	\$500.00
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
(Business Card and/or Memorial Message)	

### Single Issue Advertising Rates

#### Standard Black and White

Full Page (7 1/2" X 10 1/8")	\$275.00
Horizontal 1/2 Page (7 1/2" X 5 1/16")	\$130.00
Vertical 1/2 Page (3 3/4" X 10 1/8")	\$130.00
One-Quarter Page (3 3/4" X 5 1/16")	\$ 80.00
One-Eighth Page (3 3/4" X 2 1/2")	\$ 50.00

**CHECK PAYABLE TO: IJAA**  
**MAIL CONTRACT, AD, CHECK**  
**TO : A. Loper, 12251 Harbor Dr.,**  
**Woodbridge, VA 22192**

**E-MAIL: [aloper@wi.rr.com](mailto:aloper@wi.rr.com) (If possible send your ad in jpeg or CD-Rom.)**

#### **QUESTIONS ? CALL:**

Annette Loper, 414.791-0020

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT**



**In Loving Memory of  
Pfc John Jones**

**SAMPLE**  
Don Jones



# IJAA's 2021 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.

IJAA, PO Box 680, Quantico, VA 22134

Deadline for ticket entry 10 November 2021



# IJAA RAFFLE TICKETS

## \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Make checks payable to Iwo Jima Association of America.

**You do not need to be present to win!**

Mail Form (with CC Info or Checks)

IJAA

P.O. Box 680

Quantico, Va. 22134

Credit Cards Accepted

VISA ☐ Master Card ☐

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

V- Code (3-digit code) \_\_\_\_\_

<p align="center"><b>2021 IJAA</b>  <b>Fund Raiser Ticket—Win a</b>  <b>M1 Carbine—U.S. .30 Caliber</b>  <b>Iwo Jima Flag, Patriotic Quilt</b></p>	<p align="center">Return This Stub</p> <p>Name _____  Street Address _____  City, State and Zip _____  Phone # _____  Email Address _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>2021 IJAA</b>  <b>Fund Raiser Ticket—Win a</b>  <b>M1 Carbine—U.S. .30 Caliber</b>  <b>Iwo Jima Flag, Patriotic Quilt</b></p>	<p align="center">Return This Stub</p> <p>Name _____  Street Address _____  City, State and Zip _____  Phone # _____  Email Address _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>2021 IJAA</b>  <b>Fund Raiser Ticket—Win a</b>  <b>M1 Carbine—U.S. .30 Caliber</b>  <b>Iwo Jima Flag, Patriotic Quilt</b></p>	<p align="center">Return This Stub</p> <p>Name _____  Street Address _____  City, State and Zip _____  Phone # _____  Email Address _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>2021 IJAA</b>  <b>Fund Raiser Ticket—Win a</b>  <b>M1 Carbine—U.S. .30 Caliber</b>  <b>Iwo Jima Flag, Patriotic Quilt</b></p>	<p align="center">Return This Stub</p> <p>Name _____  Street Address _____  City, State and Zip _____  Phone # _____  Email Address _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>2021 IJAA</b>  <b>Fund Raiser Ticket—Win a</b>  <b>M1 Carbine—U.S. .30 Caliber</b>  <b>Iwo Jima Flag, Patriotic Quilt</b></p>	<p align="center">Return This Stub</p> <p>Name _____  Street Address _____  City, State and Zip _____  Phone # _____  Email Address _____</p>
<p align="center"><b>2021 IJAA</b>  <b>Fund Raiser Ticket—Win a</b>  <b>M1 Carbine—U.S. .30 Caliber</b>  <b>Iwo Jima Flag, Patriotic Quilt</b></p>	<p align="center">Return This Stub</p> <p>Name _____  Street Address _____  City, State and Zip _____  Phone # _____  Email Address _____</p>

## Merchandise Order Form

### 1. Polo Shirts:

Cost

a. Regular (Colors: Red, Wht, Grn, Blu, Blk.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Color – Black Only).....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Polo Shirts: (Men's S/M/L/XL/2XL/3XL) No: \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ : Size \_\_\_\_\_; (Ladies P/S/M/L/XL) No. \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

2. Gift Boxes.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Flasks

a. US/USMC Flag.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. Iwo Jima Monument.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

c. US/Japan Reconciliation.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

d. USMC Seal.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Iwo Jima Bracelets.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Lapel Pins

a. Flag Raising.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. US/Japan.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

6. Flag Raising Pewter Medallion.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

7. Iwo Jima Memorial Display Box with Black Sands.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 8. Ball Caps

a. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary IJAA Ball Cap.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Colors Navy Blue ☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Green ☐ Grey

b. Regular IJAA Ball Cap.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Colors Navy Blue ☐ Red ☐ White ☐ Green ☐ Grey

### 9. Challenge Coins

a. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenge Coin.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b. IJAA Challenge Coin.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

10. IJAA Patches.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

11. Stickers.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ 3 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 12. Stamps: (See Display on Page 35)

i. Four Stamps.....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ii. Sheet (unsigned).....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Sheet (Signed by Woody Williams MOH).....# \_\_\_\_\_ x \$200 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail To:

**Iwo Jima Association of America**

**P.O. Box 680**

**Quantico. VA 22134-0680**

Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Add \$7.50 for Shipping (We Ship Priority) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + 7.50

**Total Order Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ SC Code \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit on card)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Order Form (If paying by check, attach check to order form made out to IJAA. IJAA is a Non-Profit with IRS # 80 0255086. All proceeds go to funding Iwo Vets' return to Iwo Jima.



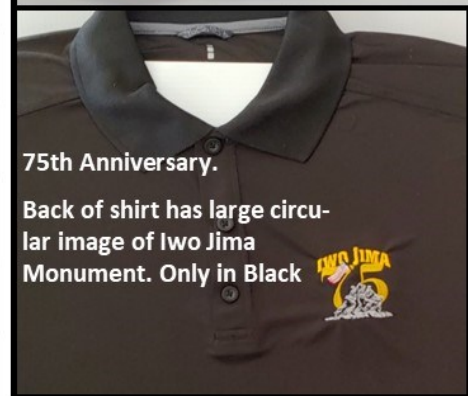
# IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (IJAA) MERCHANDISE



## Challenge Coins

## Patch

## Sticker





**Iwo Jima Association of America**

**P.O. Box 680**

**Quantico, VA 22134**

**WWW.IwoJimaAssociation.Org**

Non Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

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Quantico, VA

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

***BLACK SANDS* Advertising Member Assistance**

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.

Make copies, attach to the ***BLACK SANDS*** Advertising Contract, sign, and send to those advertisers who might want to advertise in the ***BLACK SANDS***.

**Note:** Find ad contract on page 41 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.