



# THE BLACK SANDS

The Publication of the Iwo Jima Association of America

**[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 for Iwo Jima and other Pacific Islands. 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's is to honor those veterans on both sides who sacrificed so much, and to educate the young generations on the history of the battle, in particular and World War II in general.

**CWO-4 HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS, USMC**  
**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT**



# BLACK SANDS PUBLICATION OF THE IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

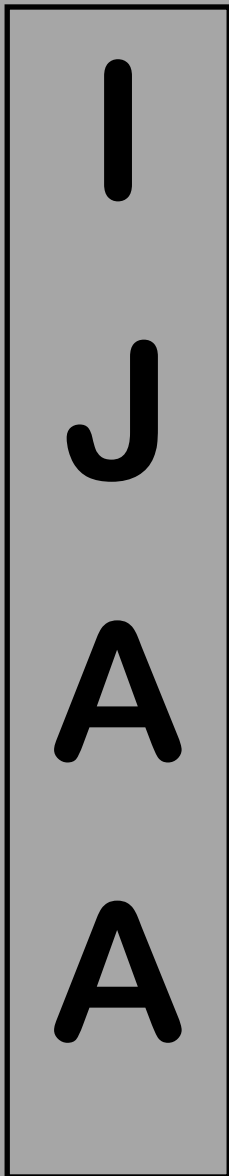
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### Formation of IJAA

MajGen Fred Haynes, USMC and other veterans of the Iwo Jima battle formed the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima Association to honor and commemorate the legacy of the American who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima. The association reorganized into the Iwo Jima Association of America in 2008 with additional focus on educating the public about the battle. IJAA partnered with the Iwo To (Jima) Association of Japan and the Government of Japan to foster reconciliation and to honor the sacrifices of all who participated in the battle and to pay tribute to the bereaved families of both nations. IJAA participates in the annual Joint US-Japan Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima each year.



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\*\*Deceased



# **Chairman of the Board's Message**

## **Iwo Jima Association of America**

### ***LtGen Noman Smith, USMC (Ret)***



Dear Members,

The IJAA leadership has continued to keep close contact with our counterparts in Japan and our friend, Representative Shindo in the Japanese Diet. We are fully committed to the maintenance of the annual and vital Reunion of Honor (ROH) on Iwo Jima. Fully recognizing that this ceremony is one of the cornerstones of the Japanese-American Security Treaty and the warm and important relationship between our two nations, both have had to endure the disappointments brought about by the global virus. Granted, the Government of Japan has demonstrated its sincerity toward this relationship by being able to plan and execute a modified ROH late last year on Iwo where attendees were limited to residents of Japan, including a select few Americans service members stationed in Japan. There has been correspondence between Representative Shindo and me citing the possibility of such a reduced ceremony again later this year. This event is predicated upon the intensity of the virus epidemic in Japan. We will await further word from Japan. In the meantime we will keep the US Embassy in Japan along with our Marine forces there as well as the appropriate Marine headquarters here in the US involved in the discussion and planning, as appropriate. We look forward to a possible return of the ROH to Iwo Jima in March 2023.

The IJAA Reunion and Seminar held at the Hilton Hotel in Arlington, Virginia last February brought together almost 200 Veterans, members, sponsors and friends to enjoy the fellowship and other events. During a cold and very windy day, the group visited and presented wreaths at the World War II memorial, the Marine War Memorial and the Marine Corps Heritage Museum at Quantico. Besides the opportunity to spend time in the museum amid the displays, the group was privileged to view the film of Captain Jerry Yellen USAAF, the personal story of his reconciliation with the people of Japan. Many of you know Captain Yellen as he has made several visits with IJAA to Guam and Iwo Jima and could always be spotted with his USAAF fifty mission crash cover jauntily atop his head. Unfortunately Captain Yellen is no longer with us.

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During the gala banquet IJAA presented a CWO Woody Williams Spirit Award to the newly elected Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Winsome Earle Sears. This lady, a Marine NCO, infused the attendees with a glowing and memorable speech following the award presentation. She was the highlight of the gala. CWO Williams video set the tone for the presentation and was stirring. The veterans interviews hosted by David Fields, who did a masterful job, walked us back in time to Iwo through the eyes of a few of our Veterans. Mr James Oelke-Farley and Dr. Charles Neimeyer's presentations at the seminar were well done full of historical perspectives of the many campaigns of Marine amphibious operations and campaigns of the various US Navy task forces in the Pacific operational areas. Lieutenant General Furness, the Operations Deputy of the Marine Corps brought us all up to speed on the activities of the present day active forces. All the presentations were first rate and greatly appreciated. I hope that we can have greater attendance in the future for these presentations.

As usual the Radio King Orchestra provided wonderful music for everyone's pleasure following the meal. We thank this loyal and professional group. We also thank the color guard and music group from Quantico which provided the ever professional touch to the gala.

In the near future, IJAA will be providing a hold these dates notification for the Reunion and Seminar for 2023.

# **President's Message**

## **Iwo Jima Association of America**

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



Greetings! I hope the spring season brings warmth, sunshine, and blooming flowers into your lives. We have completed all of the after-action reviews on our 2022 Reunion, where we honored the courage and sacrifice of all those who participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima 77 years ago. It was a wonderful event that included Iwo Jima veterans **Ivan Hammond, Roy Earle, John DeGennaro, and Louis Bourgault**. Each veteran added to the richness of the tours and events by sharing stories and memories of the battle. We are so grateful for their presence and look forward to seeing them and other Iwo Jima veterans at future reunions.

The success of the 2022 Reunion came from the numerous volunteers who dedicated their time and effort for months leading up to the gathering. From setting up the hospitality room, to organizing the silent auction items, to assigning banquet table seating, and other tasks, our wonderful volunteers are the lifeblood of the reunion and we thank them for their great service. Additionally, sponsorships and donations are critical for us to cover the costs for our Iwo Jima veterans and help to keep the costs to the attendees down. A special thanks goes to those sponsors and to **Gene Colabatistto** and **MGySgt Roger Roll** for spearheading that effort.

At the banquet, we were honored to present the IJAA Hershel (Woody) Williams Spirit Award to Virginia **Lieutenant Governor Winsome Earle-Sears** for her patriotic service to our nation. **LtGov Earle-Sears** is a Marine veteran and has worked tirelessly over the years in helping others. Woody was still recovering from a fall, but provided an inspiring taped message at the banquet. We all wish Woody a speedy and full recovery and look forward to seeing him at future IJAA events. Among the many notables at the banquet included **Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz, Japanese Ambassador Koji Tomita**, and several **Gold Star Families**. The always entertaining **Radio King Orchestra** brought everyone to the dance floor that stretched into the night. The **Crystal City Hilton Hotel** provided a wonderful venue and the staff was superb in their support. We will be holding the 2023 Reunion there as well.

We continue to remain in close contact with Japanese officials on the scheduling of the next Joint Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima. As of this writing, we are making preliminary plans for the Joint Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima in March 2023. If you do want to attend, you should keep your COVID vaccination requirements up-to-date, as I am confident that will be a requirement to travel to Iwo Jima. Please make sure the IJAA office has your contact information, especially your email address, so that we can keep you informed of the next Reunion of Honor and other events.

With warmest best wishes.

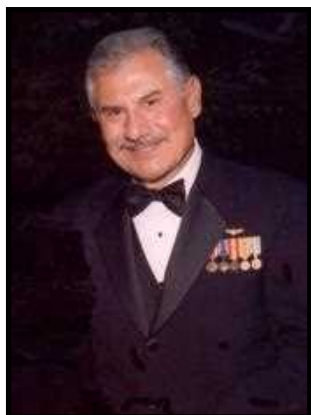
A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David F. Bice".

David F. Bice  
MajGen USMC (Ret)

# LTCOL RAUL “ART” SIFUENTES

## Executive Director

### Iwo Jima Association of America



The dust has almost cleared with the final cleanup of the 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima Reunion/symposium. Lots of good news and no bad news. It was a success from start to finish thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers who devoted much time to assisting our small, but effective staff.

The Reunion Committee, with guidance from **LtGen Smith** and **MajGen Bice**, headed by **Gene Colabatistto**, were “spot on” in the planning. The early committee meetings, coupled with hard work from **David Fields**, **Fred Lash**, **Linda Griffin**, **Laura Griffin**, **Annette Loper**, **MGySgt Roger Roll**, **Ray Etter**, **Mary Jo Lampe**, **Jennifer Culp**, **Craig Bennett** knocked it out of the park with planning, hosting, forethought and industry.

We could not have been more pleased with the professionalism and hospitality from **Ms Karen Babel** and her the staff at the Crystal City Hilton Hotel. We look forward to working with them again in 2023 for the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion/Symposium.

Iwo Jima veterans in attendance this year were **Louis Bourgault**, **Roy Earle**, **John DeGenarro** and **Ivan Hammond**. Speaking of Iwo Jima veterans, I must note that **Woody Williams** is recovering very nicely from his fall. When Fred Lash and I went to West Virginia to interview him, he was hale, hearty, brandishing a cane more for looks than utility, and had the familiar Woody Williams grin on his face. Following a video recording for the presentation of the Woody Williams Spirit Award to Virginia’s **LtGov Winsome Earle-Sears** at the Banquet, we enjoyed a wonderful visit and interview. Woody will again soon be dedicating Gold Star Monuments, and has requested to return to Iwo Jima with us as soon as the Covid restrictions are lifted by Japan.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated throughout the week.

On Wednesday we had a productive Board of Directors meeting.

On Thursday, we enjoyed a tour at the Marine Corps Museum, welcomed by President/CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, **MajGen James Lukeman**, USMC (Ret) and hosted by enthusiastic docents. We showed Jerry Yellin’s “Last Fighter Pilot” documentary and enjoyed a wonderful reception and hospitality of the museum.

On Friday we commemorated our veterans with a wreath-laying at the World War II Memorial and later, at the Iwo Jima Memorial.

We had a full schedule Saturday with the traditional Historical Symposium with Dr. Charlie Neimeyer and James Oelke-Farley. After a lunch and presentation by **LtGeneral David Furness**, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policy and Operations, Headquarters USMC, we were entertained with a lively and informative Iwo Jima Veterans’ panel, hosted by **David Fields**.

Unfortunately, General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, was unable to attend as the Guest of Honor. However, the Evening Banquet was an unmitigated success with an inspiring message from our very special guest, Virginia **LtGov Earle Sears** as she accepted the first Iwo Jima Association of America Woody Williams Spirit Award.

Raffle and merchandise sales were brisk and we are happy to announce IJAA successfully raised funds for future events.

We now look forward to the 78<sup>th</sup> Iwo Jima Anniversary Commemoration in 2023!! Mark your calendars now for 16-19 February, 2023 when we return to the Crystal City Hilton Hotel in Arlington, VA. For the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima and commemoration of our Iwo Jima and Pacific Campaign veterans.

Let us never forget and Semper Fidelis!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Raul Sifuentes".

LtCol Raul Sifuentes USMC (Ret)

**IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**16 February, 2022**  
**Crystal City Hilton Hotel**  
**Arlington, VA**

**I.      Call to Order.** At 1600, the meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman LtGen Norman Smith, USMC (Ret).

**II.      Roll Call.** Executive Director, LtCol Raul Sifuentes, USMC (Ret) called the Roll.

LtGen Norman Smith  
MajGen David Bice  
Col Warren Wiedhahn  
Mr. Gene Colabatistto  
Mr. David Fields  
Mrs. Bonnie Haynes  
Mrs. Laura Leppert  
Mr. Douglas Meny  
Mr. John Butler  
Mr. Fred Lash  
Ms Annette Loper  
Mrs. Susan Smith  
Mr. Craig Bennett  
Ms Laura Griffin  
Mr. David Babel  
MGySgt Roger Roll  
Mr David Scott (phone)

It was declared a quorum to conduct meeting..

**III.      Chairman's Remarks-** LtGen Smith opened the meeting expressing "Thank you" to LtCol Sifuentes, Dave Babel, Laura Griffin, Linda Griffin, Gene Colabatistto, Fred Lash, David Fields, MGySgt Roll and all members of the Reunion Committee for their extensive planning efforts, and especially to Gene for bringing aboard notable sponsors. LtGen Smith updated the meeting citing the current tentative nature of postponed 2022 Joint March Reunion of Honor in view of the COVID-19 international restrictions. IJAA is standing by with anticipation to return to Iwo Jima before the fiscal year ends. Communications with the Japanese via the Japanese Embassy and Government of Japan officials are ongoing and hopeful.

**IV.      17 November 2021 Board Minutes** was approved.

**V.       President's Remarks-** MajGen Bice echoed thanks to IJAA Staff and volunteers for planning, coordination, and outreach, and fundraising.

**VI.      Old Business:**

**Educational Outreach:** It was voiced that there are areas of opportunity for IJAA to increase the focus on Educational Outreach program to the general populace, schools and other organizations. The *Black Sands* is having positive impact regarding identification of additional challenges. Accordingly, MGySgt Roll, an NCAA track & field official, offered utilizing his contacts to pursue opportunities to conduct outreach to those educational organizations at which he officiates.

**Board Terms:** The changes regarding the Board of Directors' terms have been documented and accepted.



## Board Minutes Continued

Black Sands: LtGen Smith remarked upon the recent improvement in quality of the *Black Sands*. MajGen Bice advised that net revenue was realized via donations received in response to the *Black Sands*.

Website: David Babel continually reviews and updates the website content.

Email Program Constant Contact: Initially considered to have a low Return of Investment (ROI), it was read-dressed by Laura Leppert for informational outreach. It was deemed the \$47/month cost is well worth it. IJAA will seek a project manager for Constant Contact. Accordingly, MajGen Bice solicited all Board members to contribute to content, share email contact lists.

Face Book: IJAA Facebook Group Page is proving to be an effective media for sharing information and increasing membership. MajGen Bice stated Facebook is “private” and permission to participate must be requested and granted.

### **VII.    Committee Reports:**

Treasurer’s Report: David Scott-on phone—reported cash amount at end of December 2021 was \$60,000. IJAA revenue had exceeded expenses. 2023 Budget was approved by the Board.

Development Committee Report: Gene Colabatisto submitted the preponderance of funding for the Gala comes from selling tables along with silent auction resulting in a net positive. LtGen Smith acknowledged Gene’s success in attaining high dollar, attractive auction items; this year we had more \$2,500/\$2k table sponsorships.

Governance Committee: David Fields reiterated incorporation of the changes to the By-Laws. All existing Board members agreed to remain on the Board. All were re-elected.

Membership Committee: LtCol Sifuentes reported 1,426 members including 220 Iwo Jima veterans. Expanding the IJAA Charter to include the Pacific Campaigns and those veterans and families, in addition to Battle for Iwo Jima members has increased the scope and hopefully membership. The Board tabled discussion on lifetime membership for further review.

### **Fundraising Committee:**

The 2022 Golf Tournament raised \$10,000.

The Marine Corps Marathon raised \$1,000 via sponsorships for LtCol Sifuentes and Secretary Linda Griffin.

LtCol Sifuentes reported that the 2023 Reunion and Symposium contracts are in place with Crystal City Hilton, with the same room rate, breakfast included, parking, etc. **VIII.**

New Business. West Coast Event: The Board discussed opportunities for holding an event on the West Coast. The issued was tabled for further discussion.

Educational Outreach Program: The Board discussed the need to add emphasis to the IJAA educational outreach program and the various methods to educate the public, especially young people. The Board tabled the discussion for further review and recommendations.

### **IX.    The meeting was adjourned at 1730.**

# Meet Your Officers Corner

## LTCOL RAUL (ART) SIFUENTES USMC (Ret) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Born** and reared in the small farming Community of Lakeview in mid-western Michigan, Art joined the Marine Corps Reserves in 1956 while still in high school, and went on active duty immediately upon graduation in 1957. Following Boot Camp with Meritorious Promotion to PFC, Infantry Training at Camp Pendleton and Radio School, PFC Sifuentes was sent to the Territory of Hawaii to join 1<sup>st</sup> ANGLICO (AirNavalGunfireControlLiaisonCo) where he was meritoriously promoted to Corporal E-3 and deployed to Japan and Korea. He served with ANGLICO until honorably discharged in 1959.

**Upon** release from active duty, Art worked his way through Tyler Jr. College and Stephen F. Austin State College in Nacogdoches, Texas. He wed Jeanette Everett in 1963. Graduating in 1964 he opted to rejoin the Marine Corps, attending Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA. With an aviation option, 2/Lt. Sifuentes and Jeanette were sent directly to Pensacola, Florida where he earned his Aviator's Wings in April of 1966.

They, with new daughter Laura, were off to Marine Corps Air Facility (MCAF) New River, Jacksonville, NC. After a short 4-month tour flying the Sikorsky UH-34, 1st Lt Sifuentes received orders to SE Asia in September of 1966 for operations through October of 1967 in Northern I-Corps Viet Nam amassing 1,000 flight hours over 800 missions flying with Helicopter Marine Medium (HMM) 163. In October of 1967, newly promoted Captain Sifuentes and family returned to New



River for transition to the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter where he soon deployed six months aboard ship in support of Caribbean operations with HMM 264.

**Transitioning** to the CH-53 Sea Stallion in 1970, he returned to SE Asia and back to Viet Nam once again in late 1971 supporting I-Corps Operations flying both the CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters with HMM 164 and HMH 462.

**Upon** returning to the US in 1972, Capt Sifuentes, now as a family of 4, was assigned to HMH (Helicopter Marine Heavy) 463 flying the CH-53D in Kaneohe, Hawaii. Within months the squadron deployed back to Viet Nam on Operation "End Sweep", joining Navy Mine-Sweeping Helicopter Squadron 12 (HM-12) in a unique operation to "sweep" or deactivate whatever active mines remained in all the North Vietnamese harbors the US had laid during the war.

**Upon** return in early 1972, newly promoted Major Sifuentes was transferred to Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 24, flying the AH-1 Cobra and UH-1 Huey. During this period he earned a Master's Degree through an off-duty education program. Now 1975, Major Sifuentes was assigned duty to the US Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, MD as the 28<sup>th</sup> Company Officer, where he commanded a Company of 125 Midshipman teaching leadership and officer-skills to male and female Midshipmen. From the Naval Academy in 1978, his orders sent the Sifuentes family back to Quantico, VA where he attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

Continued next page

# Meet Your Officers Corner

SIFUENTES CONTINUED



**Guest of Honor  
at the  
Marine Corps  
Birthday  
celebration  
at  
Aquai Harbor**

**Following** graduation in 1979, he was ordered to Tustin, CA and became the Executive Officer in re-forming the newly returned from Viet Nam HMH 462.

**Within** months the newly re-organized CH-53 helicopter squadron deployed to Okinawa for a 6 month Unit Deployment. Upon return, Major Sifuentes was promoted to LtCol and granted Command of HMH 462. Twelve months later, LtCol Sifuentes, and the squadron, returned to Okinawa for another 6 month unit-deployment.

**Shortly** upon returning to Tustin in April of 1982, LtCol Sifuentes relinquished Command of HMH 462 and was assigned to the Staff of the Chief of Naval Aviation Training in Corpus Christi, Texas as the Training Officer. During this time he flew the C-12 King Air, UH-1 Huey and the A-4 Skyhawk. Completing a three year tour in 1985, LtCol Sifuentes elected to retire in February.

**LtCol Sifuentes** has 34 Air Medals, Vietnam Campaign and Vietnam Service medals, Navy Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct medal among other awards.

**Post** Military Employment-Boeing Helicopter Co., Philadelphia, PA; Rolls-Royce Engines, and Executive Director, Marine Corps Aviation Association.

**He** is Currently Executive Director, Iwo Jima Association of America. He has two grown daughters and grandson and great granddaughter, all residing in Delaware and has been married to beautiful Jeanette for 59 years.

## NEVER TO FORGET----- THE FOUR CHAPLAINS---



**Lt. George Fox:** Served as medical Corps assistant in WWI. He was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and French Croix d Guerre. He returned home to Vermont and became an accountant, married, two children. He later became a minister and returned to active duty in 1942.

**Lt Alexander Goode:** He followed his father's footsteps and became a rabbi and then earned a medical degree. He was married with 4 children. Applied to become a navy chaplain in 1941 but wasn't accepted until later after Pearl Harbor, was then accepted.

**Lt. Clark Poling:** From NY, married, 2 children, one born 2 months after the sinking of the Dorchester. His father also served as a chaplain in WWI and WWII.

**Lt. John Washington:** Born in NJ to Irish immigrants. Became a Catholic priest in 1935. Following attack on Pearl Harbor, was appointed as an Army chaplain.

***We Will Never Forget Your  
Heroism***

## CPL EDWARD J. MAHONEY, USMC 1943-1945

Interview by Kent Dozark

In September of 1942 Ed Mahoney was walking, literally, from Dexter, Missouri to California. because he had a friend who had survived the sinking of the USS Lexington in the Battle of the Coral Sea, he was planning to join the Navy when he reached the West Coast. But at a stop-over in Oklahoma City, he decided to go ahead and join up at the recruiting office there. The signs outside weren't clear and Ed went into the first door he came to. It was the Marine Corps office, and the recruiter on duty made such a compelling presentation that Ed ended up joining the Marines.

Mahoney served on a 37mm gun with the 3rd Battalion Weapons Company, 9th Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, fighting and surviving combat on Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima.

### **ON BOUGAINVILLE, Solomon Islands**

Ed graduated from Boot Camp at Camp Pendleton and in February of 1943 shipped out to New Zealand. After further training, on November 1st, 1943, he landed on Bougainville. During the initial stages of the battle, Ed's 37mm crew was positioned at the water's edge. His gun was pulled by a jeep. It was on the 4th or 5th night when indications came back from a Marine in a forward listening post of Japanese troop movement.

During the previous days, the Marines, using a bulldozer, cleared a path from the beach to a large tree 100 yards inland.

Throughout the night they could hear the Japanese moving. As dawn approached Ed could see 3 Japanese were hit and killed...that then set off a 30 to 40 minute firefight which ended in a Marine win.

While on Bougainville, at one point Ed's platoon was slated for a combat patrol to go out approximately 5 miles out to a defensive line. The Commanding Officer covering their mission assured them the route was clear and there were no



Japanese forces and then wished them good luck, and went to the rear. Fifteen minutes later, Ed's unit stood to move out. Ed said, "Literally, the moment we stood up we received enemy rifle and machine gun fire." Ed could see a spider hole containing a Japanese soldier 100 yards in the distance.

Within minutes the Commanding Officer returned, yelling, "What the hell is going on here?" No sooner had he got the words out of his mouth than a string of Japanese bullets hit around him. Ed said the officer turned, ran to

the rear and within a few seconds Marine mortar teams were sending ordnance to the enemy positions.

The orders included that movement would start once 3 blows of a whistle were heard. The whistle was heard and Ed's unit advanced. The Captain of K Company was supposed to be on his right for the entire operation. His unit never showed.

As Ed's weapons company advanced, a firefight ensued with enemy soldiers only 30 feet away in the jungle. Ed couldn't see individual enemy soldiers, only muzzle flashes. His platoon leader was hit in the chest and went down. Another Marine ran to him, picked up his head, and held him in his arms saying a prayer until he expired.

One night on Bougainville, Ed was assigned to be at a forward listening-post. Ed left the main lines as the sun was setting and jogged 100 yards in front of the lines. Positioning himself behind a large tree he alternated positions between crouching down and standing to get as comfortable as possible. It began to rain heavily. Around midnight the rain slowed, then stopped. The only sound was the rain drops falling from the leaves and the various birds and animal life displaying all their noises. As Ed stood there behind the tree he heard a loud thud above him.

Continued next page



## **.....IT WAS MEANT FOR ME!!!**

Toward sunrise, Ed was relieved. As he started to head towards the rear he looked up. Twelve inches up, an arrow was stuck in the tree. Ed retrieved it knowing it had been meant for him. He worked to keep the arrow but it was lost over time.

### **ON GUAM, Mariana Islands**

Forward to July of 1944 and Ed was fighting on Guam. His unit was on the extreme right flank with the Army between them and the Japanese. Japanese tank attacks were rare so the 37mm was used as much as possible as an Anti-Personnel weapon. In one memorable event, Ed's 37 Anti-Tank gun set up to monitor a road junction. Ed's crew was loaded with cannister (effectively, a large shotgun), as the best Anti-Personnel ammunition. To their right a .50 cal. machine gun was in place. Guam and Saipan were two islands to see the last of the large Banzai attacks. That night, the Japanese launched the massive attack that Guam was remembered for. Ed's crew fired canisters repeatedly and in the morning they counted 32 dead enemies in front of their position.

Another memorable event occurred on Guam. The Army, responsible for moving up the center of the island, constantly lagged behind, which led to both of the Marine flanks being exposed. One evening, Ed was set up with a fellow Marine on the extreme right flank at the end of the Marine line. The Army was supposed to be directly to the right and weren't. Concerned about an attack from the rear, Ed went back to a foxhole about 10-15 feet behind the main position. Rifle & machine gun fire, which had started slowly, began to pick up and get closer.

With the fighting heading his way, Ed shouted back that they were heading back to his position.

Ed now back in his original foxhole looked back to see a Japanese soldier jump into his, now vacant foxhole. The Japanese soldier proceeded to use the rhythm of the illumination by Navy star shell followed by darkness to popped up, shoot and then popped back down. Fed up, Ed's foxhole mate set his M1 on the enemy position. Timing it perfectly, the next time the Japanese popped up, he was eliminated.

During his time in the Pacific, Ed was able to avoid Malaria, but was struck down with Dengue Fever while on Guam. He was sent back to an aid station, via jeep, on the beach. Once all his clothes were removed, he was rolled up in rubber sheets, put on a cot next to the nurse's station, and remained there until his fever broke. When he was released, he hitch-hiked back to his unit. Part of the ride was on a truck filled with ammunition.

**.....two Marines hadn't been able to go to sleep and saw something they didn't like....**

He arrived back to his unit at dusk. There wasn't enough time to dig a new foxhole so he jumped into an existing position occupied by two Marines. The plan was that two men would be able to sleep at the back of the foxhole and the Marine in front would be on watch. About an hour into the evening one of the two Marines hadn't been able to go to sleep and saw something he didn't like, so he whispered the name of the Marine on guard duty....no response. Again he called the name of the Marine that was on watch....again nothing....no response....

Fearing their position had been compromised the Marine at the back of the foxhole fired twice. It was a terrible situation. To this day Ed believes that the Marine on guard duty did not respond because he had fallen into a deep sleep from exhaustion.

Continued next page



## **ON IWO JIMA, Bonin Islands**

Ed's unit landed on Iwo Jima on D+5 at Red Beach 1. His unit was used as infantry during the battle and their 37mm Anti-Tank guns were left near the landing beach.

Ed watched the first flag going up on Mt Suribachi from the deck of his landing ship. His ship was close and he could see all the activity easily. All the Marines cheered and ships' horns blew. The second flag-raising several hours later was without fanfare even though it was a larger flag

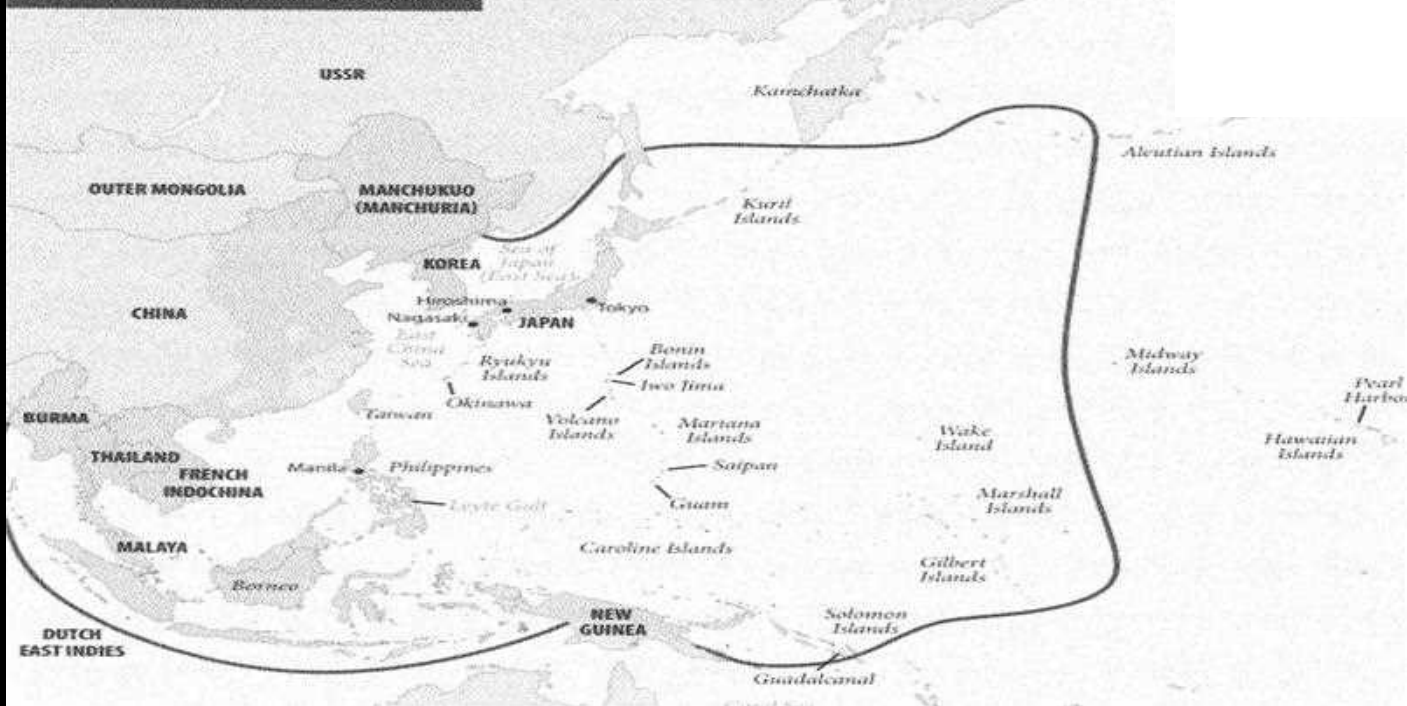
During his 42 days on Iwo, on one occasion, Ed was ordered to take a prisoner back via a Jeep to the Regiment's HQ for interrogation. As they drove to the rear, Marines were moving up to the front in the opposite direction. Every Marine they passed stared in silence, and Ed said, with an ironic laugh, that he didn't know if they wanted to shoot his prisoner or shoot him for giving an enemy a Jeep ride.

On Iwo, Ed had several close calls: Once after his carbine jammed and his assistant gunner was able to get off a round just in time to stop a Japanese who was taking aim directly at Ed. Another time he was shot directly at by a Japanese machine gun, but miraculously escaped because the enemy gunner wasn't able to lower his machine gun low enough to hit Ed. He feels lucky to have come off that island alive.



In a newspaper article written several years ago, Ed told the writer that the war is embedded in his memory "like a fish caught in a net." Those long-ago years are with him every day, even almost eight decades later.

### **World War II in the Pacific**



## MURRY LEE ALFORD USMC



He was born in Crenshaw County, city of Montgomery, Alabama, the youngest of 7 children. At age 12 he began working on a paper route and later a butcher. Murry Alford signed up for the war when he was 17 with his mother's permission. Since his 4 brothers and brothers-in-law were in the Army, he decided to be Marine.

He said the bus ride from Montgomery to San Diego for boot camp took "forever". While there, he attended cooking school because of his previous butcher experience and he

also earned his "rifle sharpshooter qualification."

He was assigned to the Third Marine Division, 9th. Regiment and served as a cook while on the ship and when stationed in Guam.

Early mornings on Guam found him walking a deserted path to the officers' mess hall to prepare breakfast. When the Iwo Jima invasion began, his unit Co. A 1st Battalion, 9th Marine, 3rd Division remained on ship as a back up. As they made their landing on March 3, 1945, he remembers arriving on the island as a ruddy 110 pound boy. As he exited the landing craft and waded through the water to reach the beach he stepped in a shell-hole and was completely submerged under water. A Marine behind him pulled him up and out of the water. Even though his rifle was lost in the water, there were plenty on the beach from Marines who had been shot.

He recalls the black, coarse sand on the beach making it very difficult to walk. When they were near the sulfur fields on the island, it was too hot to sleep in one position too long. It was even hot enough to put a can of food in a hole and in just a few minutes, it would be hot enough to eat, as if it had been heated on a stove.

At one point his canteen was shot off his hip as he was diving into a fox hole.



His unit left Iwo Jima to begin training for a land invasion of mainland Japan. They had been told to expect 95% casualties.

The atomic bomb and the subsequent Japanese surrender canceled the assault. January of 1946, he went to China to help aid in the assault there.

Murry received his Honorable Discharged in May, 1946. and returned to Montgomery to marry Margaret Welch. They remained married 64 years until her death in 2010. They raised 2 daughters 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren who lovingly called him PAPA.

Following his returned home he took up his trade as a butcher and then did outside grocery sales. Most of his career years were with the Quaker Oats Company where he excelled in sales to grocery stores and warehouse suppliers. Several years he received the honor of salesman of the year. After retiring he ended up moving to Macon, AL, where he enjoyed spending time with family, friends, playing golf. He was active in the local church, serving in many areas, one as a Deacon, several building and personnel committees to name a few.

Today he receives excellent care from the VA through the Home Based Primary Care Program.

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*Thank you to daughter Peggi,  
for submitting.*

# HISTORY OF IWO JIMA

## REUNION OF HONOR

by Arnold Shapiro

**Starting** in 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima, an annual "Reunion of Honor" commemorative ceremony has taken place on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima attended by American and Japanese veterans of the battle together with their descendants and widows.

**This** pilgrimage was made possible by the extraordinary efforts of Lt. General Lawrence Snowden, USMC (Ret) (now deceased), and Col. Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), founder and president of Military Historical Tours. They met with Japanese officials in Tokyo and put into place the annual event of Japanese and American veterans, officials, and family members gathering together peacefully on the same black sands.

**Ten** years earlier, on February 19, 1985, on the 40th anniversary of the battle, the first Reunion of Honor took place on Iwo Jima. It was chronicled in my nationally televised documentary called "Return to Iwo Jima" that premiered on Veteran's Day, 1985. The idea for this historic reunion of two former enemies was born on February 19, 1983, at Camp Pendleton after a dinner honoring Iwo Jima veterans. I know how this all began because I was there.

**I** was a documentary television producer, no USMC affiliation, but with a strong interest in the history of the battle which took place when I was four years old. When I heard about the 38th anniversary ceremony and dinner, I bought a ticket—

excited to talk with any veteran who survived Iwo Jima.

**After** dinner, I sat with a small group of veterans, then in their sixties and asked them this question, "Have any of you thought about going back to Iwo Jima on the 40th anniversary in two years?" None had. I then said, "If you do, let me know because I'll be there with cameras."

**A** month later, I received a letter from one of the men, Ed Harloff, who wrote that my question had led them to form a committee with the goal of returning to Iwo Jima for the 40th anniversary, and that I was now on the committee! My first assignment was to write a let-

**....."The Reunion of Honor." With this goal, this reunion, became and continues to be the only gathering in the world of former enemies who meet on the battlefield of their youth, this time in peace and friendship.**

ter to the Japanese Ambassador in Washington to get the ball rolling. Harloff also added one crucial sentence. The return should also include Japanese survivors for a commemorative ceremony, and he proposed it be called "The Reunion of Honor".

Besides Harloff, the other members of the group were all Marines who fought on Iwo Jima; Col Walt Ridlon, Maj Bob Hoskins, Herman "Doc" Rabeck, and Art Anderson, president of the San Diego Chapter of the Fourth Marine Division Association. They stepped into the role of event planners as senior citizens and with no prior experience. They all had the courage synonymous with a being a Marine. and so began nearly two years of planning, permission-seeking, and bringing the USMC

Office of Public Affairs into the process, headed Col Fred Peck. To make the event possible, the active duty Marine Corps had to be involved, to provide essential material and manpower support including transportation around the island, seating for the ceremony, food and beverages for the long day, a first aid tent, a military band and color guard.

**All** this and more was set in motion when Commandant P.X. Kelly ordered LtGen Cooper, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, to work with the Japanese officials and American civilians to assure a flawless reunion. Gen Cooper was also tasked to assure the

Japanese government that the event would not be a celebration of war but rather a memorial to those who fought there and a celebration of the subsequent peace between the two nations.

**Harloff** and Hoskins were also put in contact with a group none of us knew existed: The Association of Iwo Jima, headed by Reverend Tsuenzo Wachi, in Japan. Captain Wachi of the Imperial Navy had been the commanding officer of the Japanese defenses on Iwo Jima until a year before the battle. After the war, he became a Buddhist priest.

Only about 1000 Japanese combatants survived the battle but not all belonged to this group since at the time it was considered cowardly to have survived the battle. But Wachi embraced the idea of this Japanese-American Reunion as long

Continued next page



as it was done in the spirit of “once enemies, now friends”, and not victors and vanquished. Without the support and participation of Rev. Wachi’s organization, there would be no reunion.

**Ed** Harloff decided that a monument placed at the boundary between the Fourth and Fifth Marine Division beaches should be unveiled at the ceremony, with identical inscriptions in Japanese on the landward side and English on the seaward side. Rev. Wachi supported the idea and said he would arrange for the building, transportation to the island and placement of the monument. But the Americans had to finance it and write the words. Unexpectedly, I was given that assignment,

On the 40th anniversary of Iwo Jima, American and Japanese veterans meet again on these same sands, this time in peace and friendship. We commemorate our comrades, living and dead, who fought here with bravery and honor, and we pray together that our sacrifices on Iwo Jima will always be remembered and never be repeated.

**I** was able to secure the funding from Michael Wayne who headed the John Wayne Foundation (his dad starred in The Sands of Iwo Jima). I was honored to be asked to write the words for the monument which remains on the invasion beach still, 35 years later.

**Hoskins** and I and our film director, Bob Niemack, made a research trip to the island in October, 1984, where we met Rev. Wachi and saw the monument put in place and dedicated in a brief Japanese ceremony that also included Lt. Jon Allen, Commanding Officer of the US Coast Guard LORAN Station on Iwo Jima (not longer there), LtCol Jim Pendergast, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Public Affairs Officer, Col Jarvis Lynch, Chief of Staff to LtGen C.G. Cooper. Cooper would represent the United States at the ceremony.

**During** this research trip, both the active duty Marines, Lt Allen, Rev. Wachi and our group held meetings to plan the itinerary and proposed rules of conduct for the upcoming reunion. It must be remembered that one had never brought former enemies together on their shared battlefield before. Was there a risk of any veteran on either side expressing pent-up anger or hatred when they saw each other on this hallowed ground? (In 1913, at the fiftieth reunion of Union and Confederate soldiers at Gettysburg, some fist-fights broke out and everyone was American. As a precaution, it was decided that no alcohol would be permitted on the island that day.

**Since** 1995, American reunion participants fly round-trip from Guam on comfortable chartered Continental Airline planes. But on February 19, 1985, we traveled by bus from Tokyo for over an hour to a Japanese airbase where we boarded several C-130 military aircraft for a 6 A.M. departure.

**LtGen** Cooper reflected the spirit of this historic reunion when he spoke. “The unparalleled gallantry and selfless devotion that was displayed on this island 40 years ago has been amply recorded in history. Yet history should recognize that although the immortal words of Admiral Nimitz were he directed to the US Marines, certainly those Marines would be the first to share that ultimate accolade with Japanese adversaries at that time

### **UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE**

**When** the ceremony concluded, many of the Japanese widows and some Japanese veterans unpredictably shook hands with the Americans. Watching and filming theses former enemies shake hands, smile and communicate as best they could, was almost surreal knowing how savage and fierce their deadly combat was in 1945. No future reunion saw American and Japanese survivors fraternizing together. The first reunion was unique in that regard.

After the hour-long ceremony with speeches in both languages, there were trucks to carry everyone to 10 different locations on the island including the top of Mt. Suribachi. At that time, visitors could enter certain underground tunnels and caves the Japanese used. For safety reasons, future reunions will only allow guests to walk the invasion beaches and visit the top of Mt. Suribachi. But in 1985, veterans had access to the entire island, and many men were able to find locations where they fought or were wounded.

Two years of planning brought together the USMC, the USCG, the USAF, the Japanese government, the US State Department, the Japanese Association of Iwo Jima, and several members of the San Diego Chapter of the Fourth Marine Division Association who created and organized the first joint Japanese-American Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima ?”



**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION  
ON MT SURIBACHI**





# Iwo Jima 77th Anniversary Reunion

## ***“WOODY” WILLIAMS PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST IJAA***

### ***HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS SPIRIT AWARD***



I am so sorry that I am unable to join all of you at this banquet, part of a four day commemoration of the 77th Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima in 1945. I would very much enjoy being with my fellow Marines.

My travel is somewhat limited these days, but my family is taking good care of me. There are lots of doctors' appointments, medications, and plenty of physical therapy.

To all my friends and fellow veterans in the Iwo Jima Association of America, I just can't possibly express how proud and honored I am to know that IJAA is designating its 'Spirit Award' to honor my service in the Marine Corps.

And it is all together fitting and quite appropriate that the first recipient of this annual award is being presented to Virginia's new Lieutenant Governor, Winsome Earle-Sears.

I am proud to say that she is a fellow Marine who has seen her share of challenges and obstacles along the way and is the embodiment of courage, leadership, and commitment to promoting the ideals and principles that we cherish as Americans.

It should mean a lot to you at tonight's banquet that Lieutenant Governor Earle-Sears once served as the U.S. Secretary of Veterans' Affairs', Co-Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. And, during the recent campaign, she proved that she certainly knows the difference between a stock and a barrel!

On this occasion at which the spirit of brotherhood and camaraderie exists so prevalently, I am reminded of a few words once spoken by Joe Rosenthal, the famous AP photographer who captured the flag raising on Mount Suribachi.

While speaking at the San Francisco Press Club, Joe noted that "Those heroes who fought on Iwo Jima did far more than just save the day for the military forces waging the campaign in the Pacific; they also saved the United States for us, even up to today."

He went on to say "Those young men made history. They were brought up on the history of their units and their organizations. And through their acts of valor and courage on Iwo Jima, they created history and legacy for future organizations."

I applaud the IJAA for its continuing efforts aimed at keeping the history of our campaigns in the Pacific War alive. Through events like the educational symposium that occurred today, historical seminars, and tours of WWII battlefields, the association perpetuates the memory of significance of campaigns in the Pacific Theatre of Operations.

I applaud the IJAA for its continuing efforts aimed at keeping the history of our campaigns in the Pacific War alive. Through events like the educational symposium that occurred today, historical seminars, and tours of WWII battlefields, the association perpetuates the memory and significance of campaigns in the Pacific Theatre of Operations.

## Iwo Jima 77th Anniversary Reunion

I'm also quite please that IJAA continues to be dedicated to the ongoing reconciliation with Japan and fostering the relationship with one of our strongest allies.

Once again, my congratulations to Lieutenant Governor Earle-Sears for being named the first recipient of the IJAA "Spirit Award". You bring so much to the table, with your experience and dedication to veterans' causes. Virginia can indeed be thankful that it now has a Marine in a position of leadership.

Thank you for allowing me a few minutes of your time this evening. I salute each of the Iwo Jima veterans who are present. You are the very core of our proud heritage as a nation.

Semper Fidelis to you all and God Bless America.

*Presented by: IJAA Chairman LtGen Norman Smith and Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz.*



*"The Iwo Jima Association of America takes pleasure in presenting the IJAA Hershel "Woody" Williams Spirit Award to Virginia's LtGov Winsome Earle-Sears, in recognition of her inspirational leadership, pride, and patriotism. As a dedicated leader, she personifies the traits of courage and commitment exhibited by our brave veterans during the Battle for Iwo Jima in 1945. Lieutenant Governor Earle-Sears is selflessly devoted to our Nation and a staunch supporter of our American ideals and principles. We are truly pleased that she is the first recipient of this coveted award.*

*Presented on February 19, 2022 on the 77th Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima.*



# Iwo Jima 77th Anniversary Reunion



L-R: Roy Earle, John DeGennaro, Louis Bourgault, Ivan Hammond



Raul Sifuentes, pilot, who flew the H34, John



The honorary police escort to the reunion's scheduled events.



# Iwo Jima 77th Anniversary Reunion



Iwo Jima Veterans. L-R John DeGennaro, Louis Bourgault, Ivan Hammond (son Bruce at his side)



The Arlington County Police and Sheriffs, provided private escort to the National Marine Corps Museum.



# Iwo Jima 77th Anniversary Reunion

## CAMARADERIE—FRIENDSHIP



General Bice along side the Iwo Jima flag, signed by over 400 Iwo Jima veterans, The flag was presented to IJAA by John Beele, who obtained all the signatures over many years.



# Iwo Jima 77th Anniversary Reunion MEMORIES





## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMENTARY

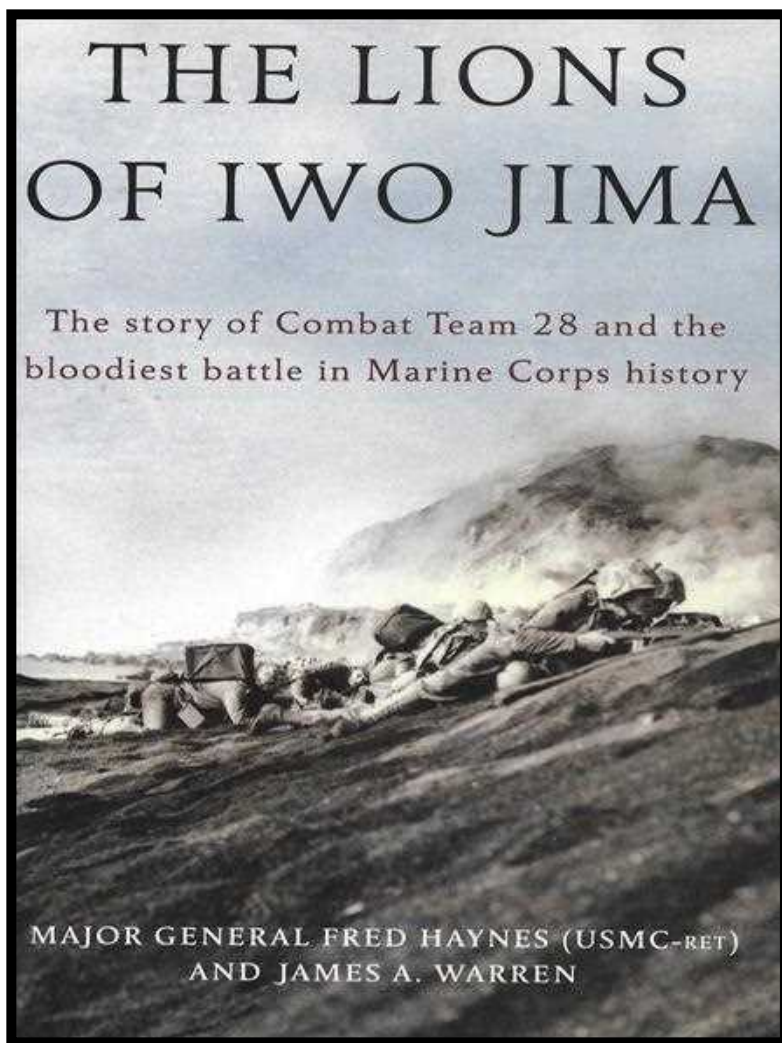


Sunday, February 20, 2022

MGySgt Roger Roll USMC(Ret), and Craig Bennett, gathered centerpieces from the previous evening dinner and placed the flowers at numerous headstone with respect, honor and patriotism. This gesture by them touched our hearts.



**Jerry's Last Mission** is the powerful story of fighter pilot Jerome Yellin who flew the last combat mission of World War II over Japan and returned home a hero, but led a dark life of survivor's guilt and daily thoughts of suicide. Married with four sons, Yellin was forced to face his enemy once again when his youngest son moved to Japan and married the daughter of a Kamikaze pilot.



**AUTHOR**  
**MAJOR GENERAL**  
**FRED HAYNES**  
**USMC (RET)**  
**Founder Emeritus of**  
**Iwo Jima of America**  
**Association**  
**and**  
**James A. Warren**

### **REVIEW—THE LIONS OF IWO JIMA**

The book tells the story of Combat Team 28, one of the greatest units fielded in the history of the U.S. Marines. The unit, 4500 men strong, trained for a full year, landed on the black sands of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, and raised the flag atop Mount Suribachi after four days of ferocious combat. Yet the battle had just begun.

Fred Haynes, then a young captain, is the last surviving officer in CT 28 who was intimately involved in planning and coordinating all phases of the Team's fight on Iwo Jima. Drawing on a wealth of previously untapped documents, personal narratives, and letters, in addition to more than one hundred interviews with survivors, Haynes and Warren recapture in riveting detail what the Marines of Combat Team 28 experienced, placing particular emphasis on the Team's struggle to break through the main belt of the Japanese defenses to the north and reduce the final pocket of resistance on the island in Bloody Gorge.

The stories told, many for the first time, will seem too cruel, too heartbreaking to be believed. As one veteran remarked, "Each day we learned a new way to die." By the time the battle ended, 70 percent of the men in the team's three assault battalions—the Marines who charged hundreds of mutually supporting enemy positions with rifles, flamethrowers, and satchel charges – were killed or seriously wounded.

This book is for everyone to read, regardless of age, to understand the bravery, heroisms' of our Marines and all who battled on Iwo Jima—the historical battle of WWII, which turned the tide of the war..

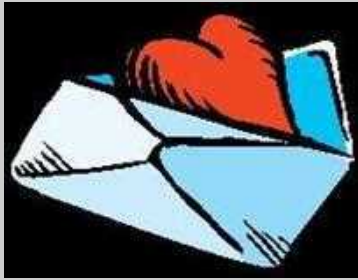
You can obtain a book through the IJAA office.

Call 703-212-8128



## LT HENRY MORGAN USMC

**Prelude:** One of the officers was telling me of an experience during fighting. He had his platoon working with the infantry across an open piece of ground. The Japanese were particularly accurate with sniper fire that morning and were hitting a good many Marines as they charged forward. The fight took place on ground that was absolutely barren—no vegetation or cover of any type, so the corpsmen couldn't evacuate the wounded. As this tank officer, Quentin Earl, returned from the attack, one of the wounded men rolled over toward his tank and feebly waved a hand to attract attention. Lt Earl tried to evacuate the man by pulling him into his tank, so he started to drive toward the wounded man. The Marine waved again, and raised himself to crawl to the tank. A Japanese sniper saw him move and killed him before Lt Earl could do anything about the whole deal. That isn't much of a story, Dearest, but I just passed it along to you as another proof of the heartlessness of battle.



**Letter  
FROM LT EARL  
MORGAN  
TO HIS WIFE**

My Dearest,

I lost my good wallet (the one mom gave me for Xmas a year ago). When Horrible Hank decided to go swimming in 15 feet of water, that was about H.Hour+30 minutes and he hasn't been seen or heard of since. Baby, I was one wet, scared little boy when I came out the top hatch and swam to the beach under plenty of mortar fire. The rest of the crew got out safely too, but I made them go to another disabled

tank right away for protection. I crawled up on the beach and hailed another tank which was cruising around looking for a way up the 1st terrace.

I climbed in the escape hatch, into the turret to take over the tank and got off the beach plenty fast. We were across the inland in another 30 minutes and believe me we certainly had a field day against the Japanese. The first Japanese we shot from this tank (Acey-Ducey), was an officer and Momie, he had the most surprised look in his face when our machine guns clipped him. Our company was the only tank company in assault the entire first day.

Davey and I were out in front and headed for the Northern end, but the infantry was so badly shot up by mid-afternoon that we had to stop and protect them while they dug in for the night. That first night was truly HELL. We were rift in the front lines and all mixed up with Japanese, Marines, and fire from both ends of the island. I slept in the turret of David's tank, but believe me, I didn't close my eyes the entire night. Mortar fire is most terrifying of all the things they used. At least 10 mortar shells lit right on top of the turret in which I was sleeping. My conversation (out loud), to myself ran something like this\_ .....

**"NICE TURRET — BEAUTIFUL THICK ARMOR — LOVELY TANK — HIT US AGAIN"**

Continued next page

## **IT WAS BAD BUT I HAD A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE TANK.**

### **“TOKYO EXPRESS”**

#### **New name of our tank.**

Luckily, they didn't hurt us a bit...fire would have been bad, but I wouldn't even let myself think about that at the time. Davey told me the next morning that he had done the impossible..."I climbed right up into his Tin Helmet, head, shoulders, body and feet." I think he may have been exaggerating a little but not much. We slept every night with our heads inside a helmet and it got to be a very comfortable, and as well as a comfortable pillow. The next day I took over the tank "TOKYO EXPRESS", and the Japanese must not have liked the name because before noon they had hit us with everything in the book, heavy mortar- artillery- anti-tank guns. Poor Tokyo was down for the count but not one of us was hurt. It took a week to get it repaired, new engine, new track, new radiators, etc. Oh yes, we fell into a 10 ft. deep shell-hole too. That was a lovely day. You must have been doing some tall praying for me, because it was certainly a miracle that we pulled through it unhurt.

**Next day—guess what?** Yep, I took over another tank. Darling, they were making a Christian out of me fast, but I figured that as long as I could keep on fighting them that it was safer inside than outside! You know what I mean, I'm sure. Miracle of Miracles!!! I got through the next two days in this tank, only being hit twice with anti-tank shells, but they didn't come through the armor to do any damage.

On the 26th of February fate decided that I lose this one —— a nice big anti-tank mine really played hell with us. It felt just like being hit in the fanny with the "Sunset Limited" while you were bent over tying you shoe strings. No strain, no pain though. We got out, under again, mortars and rifle fire. Ran into a Japanese pill-box and stayed there about 20 minutes or was it 20 years. **I'm telling you, baby, if someone had tied a quart of milk around my neck, I could have made butter out of it for them in 30 minutes.**

When we figured the Japanese were tired of shooting at us, I led off and we ran about a mile back across the airport to the bivouac area. It is good thing Seabiscuit wasn't there to run me that day, He would have come in last by 30 lengths. I may be a little heavy, but boy, am I fast when someone is shooting at me!!! We were pretty badly shaken up after this one. I lost a little hide, and hurt my leg just a little bit, so I got to rest a day or so until Tokyo Express was repaired.

Your dad welcomed the rest, and it was good to be in a bivouac for the first time where you didn't have to get up and dodge snipers bullets before coffee could be made. I began to suspect about this time that the nips didn't want us to take the island. Also, it dawned on me that the Japanese were pretty smart fighters. I think they listened to us talking on our tank radios, because one day they were giving us a good pasting with mortar fire, so I called Davey on the radio and said, "Davey, this is Hank. I don't think they like us." That transmission was no more out of my mouth when they threw at us about half of all the scrap iron that our American Patriots sold them for the last ten years. It looked for a while as if they were shooting box-cars at us, but they did very little damage.

**I think we wore them out in much the same way that a little fellow at the stockyards told me he whipped everyone he got into a fight with.**

Continued next page



He just let them knock him down until they were completely exhausted and then he would beat hell out of them.

Tokyo Express carried me through the rest of the show and only was damaged once bad enough to be out of action for a couple of hours. Old "58" did a fine job, and if any of the enemy was alive to testify, I believe they would say that we did lots of damage to them.

**"Davey, Swack, and I round up the war in fine shape. Fought right up to the last inch and I believe the Marine Infantry will give us lots of credit for the substantial help we gave them every day."**

I haven't tried to tell you all the story, sweet darling, nor have I attempted to hide too many of the unpleasant details. I just know you will feel better if I cut you in on the scoop then if you just wildly guess at what might have happened.

**Honey, I have learned a lot in this show, mostly that no one is going to stop the Marine Corps from doing any task that is given to do.** The kids are glorious fighters, and the entire nation should get down on its knees and give thanks that these Marines are willing to fight and die for them without thought of glory or reward. They're all here, Mommy, the kid who stole cars, the one from the wrong side of the tracks, the Polish kid with unpronounceable name, the Jew, the Negro, the German, the Italian, Puerto Ricans, Swedes, Danes, Russians, All nations, the preacher's son, the Mama's boy, boys who never kissed a girl, married men with two and three kids. One of my Sgt's is celebrating his 15th wedding anniversary this month.

**Red in the face and in a loud voice, he said,  
"Lady there is no  
unknown Marine".**

Some how when the chips are down they all become not only Americans, but Marines, and they fight like they were possessed by furies greater than ever known to man. Many died and many lived, but the kids never speak of a buddy as if he were dead. It is always, "Bill and I were up front together. Bill did this, and Bill did that." They continue talking about them even though they know that they are buried and gone. I know now what the Commandant of the Marine Corps meant when he answered the well meaning lady who wanted to establish a memorial to the "Unknown Marine".

"Lady there is no "Unknown Marine". He was right, dearest wife, the Marines all live and will always be kept alive in the hearts of other Marines and we hope the hearts of all Americans.

Continued next page

It is an honor to fight along side the boys who fought at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, Guam and all the other places where Marine blood was spilled. It is too bad that Hearst felt that our efforts have been strategic and too costly, but have had little choice as to whether we lived or died. We have gone where the Japanese were with the intention of killing them and taking the ground upon which we fought, somebody is bound to get hurt.

Beloved, my long, rambling narrative must be ended for the time being. I don't want you to think for a second that this one battle has made me forget in any small way just what you and I are fighting for. My eyes are fastened on the bright future which is to be ours. My love for you has nobounds, and is finer and greater in every respect not because of this experience, but because I wholly realize that God intends for us to survive so that we may be with each other in all the wonderful years to come.

Henry H. Morgan



As you read Henry's letter to his wife, you may have noticed his many sweet references he had referring to her:

.....

DEAREST— MOMMIE—  
DARLING -- BABY —  
YOUR BABY — BELOVED

What endearing "loving" terms do you have for your loved ones?

## 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 |         |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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website: www.IwoJimaAssociation.org  
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If you are seeking to find a Iwo Jima veteran, please send your request to:

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



IJAA would greatly appreciate notification and mailing address of an Iwo Jima Veteran who has not received either the Iwo Jima Journal or the Marine Marathon Medal.

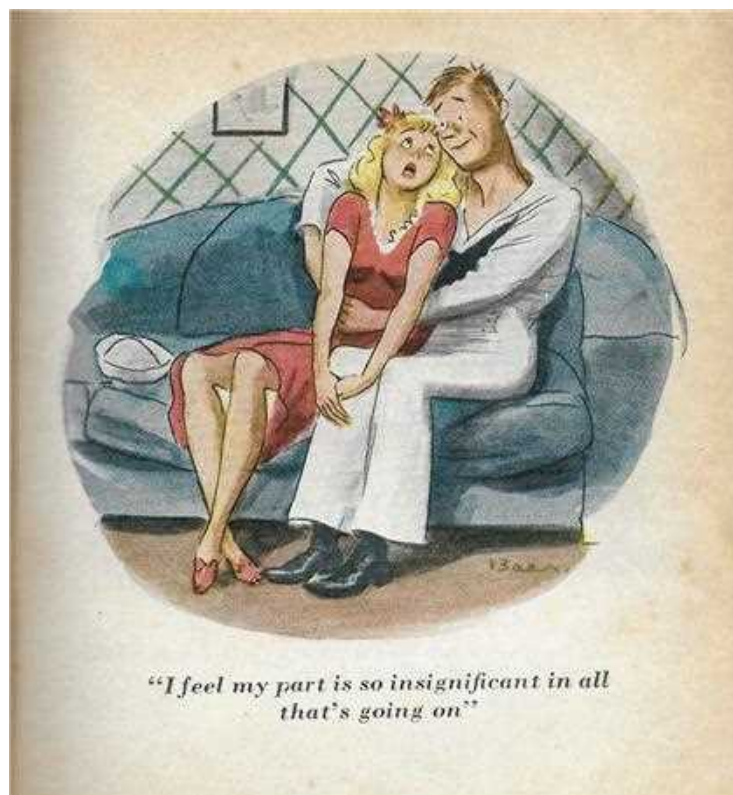
Also, if you know an Iwo Jima Veteran who is not a member (membership is gratis), please notify us ( address on enclosed envelope.) Membership also is open to all family members, friends, etc.

IJAA is committed to honor our Iwo Jima veterans and the importance to

“never forget” our history.

# Laughter Corner

Laughter is the shortest distance between 2 people



## *Ladies First*

“Oh, do you mind,” the lady said,  
“If I step in and go ahead?”

I hope that you will pardon me,  
But I am in a rush, you see,

I’m going out today to dine.  
Would you give me your place in line ?”  
So I smile a gracious smile,  
and meekly bow and lift my tile.

“I do not mind just doing this,  
It helps to add to human bliss.”  
But when females all combine  
To come and take my place in line,  
My temper seems to soar and burst.

Who wrote that saying,  
“Ladies First”.

George Goodman





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alatorre, Richard  
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Berrien, AJ  
Bolton, Tamra  
Bourgault, Louis  
Campbell, Karen Cozzi  
Cleveland, Scott  
Collins, John  
Cundari, Michael  
Dake, Elmer  
Eckerson, Bill  
Fitzpatrick, 1st Sgt H.L.SMC (Ret),  
Flores, Leonardo  
Gilmer, John  
Goaring, Robert  
Graham, Ed  
Hale, Scott  
Heilman, Earle Sgt USMC  
Hill, Claude  
Holman, John  
Jacquier, Charles  
Janowsky, Bruce  
Janowsky, Glenn  
Joyner, Dick & Peggy  
Malishenko, Taylor  
Maretich, Frank  
Matteucci, Robert  
Mazilli, Karne  
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Sanchez, Christopher

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Roll, Rodger MSgt USMC (Ret)  
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Winslow, Stephen  
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KINDNESS —

★ PATRIOTISM — ★

PREVIALS —

A man waiting for his flight from DC to Wilmington, SC heard the airline announcement that the flight was overbooked by a single seat. Anyone volunteering to forego their trip for a later time should come forward and receive \$300.00. Didn't sound like it would be a good idea to go from a direct flight to a flight with a layover in New York.

He wondered how the airline would manage if no one came forward. An hour or so later another announcement indicating the ante increased to \$500.00. No takers.

Shortly after, two airline employees were in an intense conversation. Next thing he noticed they went to a man in a wheelchair (he was wearing an Iwo Jima cap), and informed him since he was the last person to book his flight that the rule indicated he was to be "bumped" off his scheduled flight.

Observing this, I walked to the elderly man, and said "Looks like you're on the bubble." "I bought my damn ticket three weeks ago," he said. "Do you live in Wilmington?" "Wilmington, yes," he said. He'd been at the Hilton Crystal City for a reunion of veterans of Iwo Jima. He had to be at least 95 years old. I explained that I was going to see my father who flew jets in the Vietnam War. I said I hoped that if my dad was in the same situation someone would give up their seat for him. I thanked the man for his service and walked to the gate. "I'll give up my seat," I said. The gate agents looked like they wanted to hug me and gave me a \$700.00 voucher.

The vet was going to be wheeled on the plane. He said, **"I can walk."**

Side note: The Iwo Jima Veteran was Louis Bourgault.

## 80 YEAR OLD DIARY REUNITED WITH FAMILY



The niece of a soldier killed at the Battle of Salerno in 1943 has said she is "fascinated and moved", after *The*

*Times*, was able to reunite her with the contents of her uncle's diary, 79 years after his death (Jack Blackburn writes).

An Italian collector found Private Kenneth Hawkins's medals and diary for sale on eBay and, as reported by the newspaper, expressed a wish to share the contents of the diary with the Hawkins family, if still alive.

An investigation discovered his nearest living relative Janet Hawkins, the daughter of Kenneth's younger brother, Russell. She lives in Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, near the family's home.

I learnt so much about my uncle and I feel I know him now," said Janet Hawkins, 65, who was moved to tears by reading the diary of Private Hawkins.

*Dear Veterans and Families,*  
  
*Your diary/letters are  
meaningful. It is only  
one person's story, no other  
like it.*

*Please consider sharing it  
with your family and IJAA.*

*Black Sands editor*



# FINAL CALL



**BELL, CPL GENE**  
USMC  
IWO JIMA  
1926—2021  
Belgrade, MI

**GLANCY JR., FRED**  
USMC  
1922—2019  
Muncie, IN

**BAUGHAN, JAMES WARREN**  
USMC  
IWO JIMA  
1925—2020  
SALINA, KA

**ROEHRICH, EUGENE**  
US NAVY  
USS Whitley AKA-91  
1926—2021  
El Cajon, CA

**GRIGGS, BILLY**  
USMC  
Iwo Jima, Guam Liberator  
G/2/21/3rd MarDiv  
1924—2022  
Sommerville, TN

**THIELE "T.FRED" HARVEY**  
USMC  
IWO JIMA  
1923—2022  
San Antonio, TX



**DOUGLAS, WILLIAM EDWIN**  
US NAVY  
IWO JIMA  
1927—2020  
Okeechobee, Florida

**SOMERHALDER, JACOB CHARLES**  
USMC  
IWO JIMA  
1923—2019

**SERVERSON, RUSSELL**  
USMC  
IWO JIMA  
1926—2021  
ARCADIA, WI

**DINSMORE, LLOYD USMC**  
1923—202  
Iwo Jima  
Tulsa, OK

**BOYCE, EARL W.**  
IWO JIMA  
ARMY AIR CORPS  
1925—2021

**JAYNE, WILLIAM EDWARD**  
US NAVY  
IWO JIMA  
1926 - 2020  
New Bern, NC

**FARLEY, GUY ELRIDGE**  
US NAVY—U.S.S. BARR  
1923—2020

Jonesboro, Louisiana

**BOOKOUT JR., LUTHER**  
USMC  
IWO JIMA  
1918—2018  
Harlingen, CO

**SOFEDES, JOHN**  
USMC  
IWO JIMA  
1926—2001  
Buffalo, Grove, IL

## 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



JAMES WARREN BAUGHAN

1925—2020

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of James Warren Baughan (Salina, Kansas), who passed away on February 21, 2020, at the age of 94.

Jim grew up in Salina, Kansas. He attended Oakdale Elementary School and graduated from Salina High School. As a youngster, he had several jobs including a paper route and working at the Cozy Inn. During high school, his lifetime devotion to his nation began when he sold War Bonds to help finance World

War II. He was named the top salesman of War Bonds in Saline County.



Upon graduation from high school, he followed his older brother, Bill and enlisted in the Marine Corps. Later his brother Bob, would also enlist in the Marines. “Brother Bill” and Jim saw combat in World War II and “Brother Bob” in the Korean War.

He was assigned to Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in Oceanside, California for training. During World War II, Jim served as corporal in the Marine Corps and was promoted to sergeant. In combat, he was sent to the Pacific Islands and was a warrior in the Battle of Iwo Jima Island. On February 19, 2020, on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, the Salina VFW Post 1432 honored Jim as one of two survivors of

that battle living in Kansas. Ironically, he died two days later on February 21, which was the anniversary date of the second wave of soldiers to the island and his actual entry into combat at Iwo Jima.

His Marine Corps experience shaped him for life as service to his country and to the Marines was at the core of his soul. He lived out the Marine Corps League motto of “once a Marine, always a Marine.” He demonstrated his love for his country at every opportunity. He almost always wore a hat or jacket honoring the Marines or the USA with intermittent periods of wearing ball caps that were given to him by his grandchildren. For years, he would carry the American Flag in community parades in Salina. He was involved for decades with the Marine Corps Toy Box program, and a charter member of the Tri Rivers Detachment and officer.

On October 24, 1950, Bea Blom married CPL Jim Baughan at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in Oceanside, California. They were married for 67 years. Following his service in the Marine Corps, they settled in Salina and devoted the next two decades to raising five children. Upon returning to Salina after his military service, he was a car salesman at Long-MacArthur Ford for several years. He then began a career as truck driver for Graves Truck Line where he worked for 38 years and driving more than 1 million miles. After retiring, he continued driving tour buses, grain trucks and other vehicles for Salina companies.





# Remembrance



GENE BELL  
1944 - 2021

United States Marine Corps Cpl. Gene Bell from Banning, California, enlisted in the Marine Corps February 19, 1944. "I joined the Marine Corps because I loved America and I wanted to contribute to keeping America great." said Bell. While with 3rd Marine Division he fought in the battles of Guam and Iwo Jima. A short time after Guam, he was transferred to 81mm Mortars for the Battle of Iwo Jima. Veteran Gene Bell was just 17 years old when he landed on Guam in 1944. As a Corporal in the 3rd Marines, Bell and his fellow Marines were the first replacement unit to come on shore after the invasion. Near the end of the war Mr. Bell was selected to attend OCS Camp Lejeune, NC. The war ended prior to graduation and Mr. Bell elected to return to civilian life.

He returned to California and attended USC, Los Angeles via the Navy V-12 program and was married in 1947 to the former Vera Wegelin for 65 years until her death in 2013. Gene joined the Inglewood Police Department in 1948 as a Motor Patrol Officer and served 29 years in a variety of positions, attending numerous law enforcement and college classes, and ending his Law Enforcement career with the Detective Bureau until retirement in 1977. Gene then became a seasonal Law Enforcement Ranger in Glacier National Park from 1977 until 1987. He and Vera raised their family in both California and the remote areas of Glacier National Park.

Gene was a very cordial, engaging, 95 year old Marine, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division Veteran, of our most famous battle for Iwo Jima. He was on the board of the Iwo Jima Survivors Association and traveled and spoke extensively to Marines, Veterans, Embassies, and interested American citizens. Mr. Bell is a walking talking Marine Corps advertisement in every clime and place. He returned to Iwo Jima on numerous occasions, the most recent being the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Reunion of Honor in 2016. He was a member of the liberation force of Guam and attended their anniversary celebration as often possible and was their Grand Marshal at the 2017 Liberation Day Parade.

Mr. Bell was conversant with, and on a first name basis with every Marine Commandant in recent history. He was a knowledgeable, well spoken, polite gentleman, who is always positive in his outlook and attitude.



**Marine Commandant Berger,  
Eugene Bell, at the 2020 75th  
Anniversary of Iwo Jima  
gathering of the Iwo Jima  
Association of America, in  
Washington, DC**



# Remembrance



LLOYD FARRON DINSMOPE

1923—2021



He joined the Marines in 1943 and he headed to the Marine Training Center in San Diego, California. In his memoirs, he writes, “on the evening of December 30, 1943, I departed by train from Kansas City’s Union Station with a fond farewell and a treasured photograph of a sweet young lady, Miss Lois Jean Colter (who was later to become his wife in 1946).”

His military assignments took him from California to Maui, to the South Pacific, Saipan, and ultimately Iwo Jima. He was part of the American invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, enduring 26 hellacious days and nights in the Battle of Iwo Jima. VJ Day, August 12, 1945, was a day of pure joy compared to their normal military schedule.

During a 30-day leave shortly after this, Lloyd and Lois became engaged on Christmas Eve, 1945. Lloyd and Lois were married June 30, 1946. From this union came two children, Steve and Linda.

After returning to civilian life, Lloyd held several positions of employment with the United States government. For several years, he was an investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor, working in Kansas City and then Houston, before retiring and moving to Tulsa, OK, to be closer to family in 1982. In his retirement years, he and Lois volunteered at City of Faith/Cancer Treatment Center for 25 years. They also enjoyed numerous trips, visiting all 50 states and about 15 foreign countries, making friends wherever they went.

He is survived by countless family members and friends.



# Remembrance



EUGENE ROEHRICH

1926 - 2021



Eugene "Gene" Roehrich, age 95, of Watertown, South Dakota, died Sunday, February 7, 2021, at Arlington Avantara in Arlington, SD, surrounded by family.

He was born Eugene "Gene" Balser Roehrich on May 30, 1925. He grew up with three brothers, George, Edward, and Richard and five sisters, Irene, Gertrude, Francis, Marian and Carolyn.

He graduated from high school in 1943. Eugene was drafted in 1943 to the US Navy, serving two years and eight months on the USS Whitley AKA-91.

Upon returning from the service in the US Navy, he returned to Aberdeen. In 1946, he began working in Portland, OR for Iron Fireman Furnace Manufacturing. In 1948, he moved to San Diego, CA, where he met and married the love of his life, Emma Chadwick, on May 1, 1949.

Eugene continued to work various jobs throughout his life. In 1948, he worked at Howerton Heating until 1954, eventually opening his own heating and air conditioning business, Active Heating, which operated until 1964. In 1964, they moved as a family to Big Stone Lake where they owned and operated Fosters Lodge. They sold their business in 1967 and decided once again to return to San Diego to work at Holly Distributors. In 1968, they moved to Clark, SD, where they purchased the HiWay Motel. Gene was a handyman and constructed and built several units onto their motel and in 1973 built the HiWay Drive Inn which they operated until 1998, returning to El Cajon, CA, where they retired. He continued his retirement years being a handyman. .

Eugene and Emma were blessed with three children, 5 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. A tradition of Eugene and his wife was to make a phone call on their birthdays and sing "Happy Birthday" to them.





# Remembrance



Remembrance



Fred Harvey was born on October 29, 1923 in Memphis, Texas to parents, Thiele Fowler Harvey and Jessie Lee Searcy. He had seven sisters and one brother.

Harvey had a difficult time in school, so he left and decided to join the Marine Corps in 1942. He attended boot camp in San Diego, where he applied and joined the Paramarines.

After finishing his training with the Paramarines, Harvey deployed overseas to Vella Lavella and Bougainville in the Solomon Islands with the 1st Parachute Battalion. While there, he fought in combat for the first time. He later landed on Iwo Jima with the 26th. Marines.

During the battle of Iwo Jima, Harvey was part of a three-man patrol assigned to contact an adjoining company. While attempting to establish contact, the Japanese ambushed his patrol with heavy machine gun fire. The gun fire seriously wounded one member of his patrol.

Harvey dragged the injured Marine to a nearby hole to provide him shelter from the gunfire, and from there, he held off the hostile forces with hand grenades and his rifle until a rescue squad arrived.

To effectively evacuate the fallen Marine, Harvey exposed himself to enemy fire while directing heavy fire on the Japanese position. In an interview with the American Veterans Center, he recalled what helped him to survive his time on Iwo Jima: "Anytime I went into action, I was really scared, and that fear is what saved me."

Harvey earned a Silver Star for his selflessness and devotion in saving the life of his fellow Marine. He left the Marines after the Battle of Iwo Jima and returned to Texas.

He went to college at Panhandle A & M and earned his Master's degree at West Texas State. In the 1950's he coached baseball and football at Ysleta High School in El Paso, Texas. In the 1960's he coached football at Eastwood High School in El Paso. In the 1970's he coached football at Littleton High School, Littleton, Colorado.

He spent the rest of his career in education with the Department of Defense in South Korea and Turkey.

In his retirement he wrote a book, "Hell Yes, I'd Do It All Again". Fred traveled to book signings, worked with the Nimitz Rotary Club and the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, where he spoke to school groups and service clubs about his experiences in the military. He even became the oldest Marine at the age of 96 to complete the Marine Corps Marathon in a Custom wheelchair with the help of fellow Marines in 2020.

He is survived by one son, 3 granddaughters and 4 great grandchildren.

# RUSS SEVERSON

## IWO JIMA

### 1926-2001

In December of 1943, I was 17 years old, a senior in high school. One day a friend asked me to ride along with him to Lacrosse, WI because he was going to enlist in the Marine Corps. Having nothing to do that day I consented to go with him. The recruiting Sergeant and my friend talked me into enlisting too. I had to get my mother's consent which wasn't too easy but she finally agreed. We were sent to Milwaukee, WI for our physical exam. I passed but my friend didn't.

I wasn't called until after the new year of 1944. I had to report to Milwaukee, WI. There were 8 of us there. A fellow by the name of Dale Casper was in our group. We took the North Shore Railway to Chicago and transferred to a troop train which was Southern Pacific going to San Diego, CA. I remember we had a stop over in Las Vegas, NV but there was nothing much there at that time. It wasn't till 1950 that the building boom started there. We arrived in San Diego Marine Base and assigned to Platoon 170 on 1-29-1944. Our Drill Instructors were Sgt B.W. Kohn Jr., Cpl F.J.C. Walton, and PFC Ed Laprath.

We were rushed through boot camp in 8 weeks. They trained us fast and good. The losses in the Pacific were heavy up to this point and had to be replaced for future landings on Japanese held islands.

March, 1944, right after boot camp, I was sent to communications school at the base and then sent to Camp Mathews for weapons training. I was in communications school approximately two weeks and then transferred to machine gun, B.A.R., and other heavy weapons school. We had extensive training in amphibious landings at Coronado Islands off of San Diego.

When I came to Pearl Harbor, I could see many ships that were sunk on December 7, 1941. Not all of it had been cleaned up yet.

I went on liberty a couple of times in Honolulu.

In July we boarded a ship at Pearl Harbor. We didn't know where we were going. Our first stop was in Marshall Islands. Spent a little time there. We were at sea at least 20 days. The 8th of August we arrived at Guam. There I joined the Third Marine Division that was fighting at the northern end of Guam. I was assigned to "I" Company, Third Battalion, 21st. Regiment, 3rd Division. I was on a machine gun squad. My Sergeant was Eddie Vergets from New Orleans. He was a nice guy.

My squad leader was Sal Cervini from New York. Our company commander was Cpt Clayton Rockmore who played football at Cornell University. He was killed on Iwo Jima.

The Division was in the process of mopping up on Guam. The main Japanese Army and Imperial Marines that defended Guam was smashed. Groups of Japanese numbering 10 to one hundred or so still fought us. We were sent out daily to patrol the dense jungles on Guam. Some times we were sent out for three days at a time. Our squad never carried the machine guns on these patrols. They were very heavy for this kind of fighting and we would all get a B.A.R. with a hundred rounds of ammo per person.

We would change personnel every three days. Every evening a jeep would haul hot food to these outposts. One day I was chosen to be a guard on the chow run. The driver and myself were the only ones going. We had to go about 6 miles through the jungle on a muddy road that we could hardly get through. We were about half way there when some Japanese's tried to ambush us for the food I think. They had put some logs on brush on the road. Somehow we got around the barricade when they opened fire on us. They hit the jeep and broke the windshield. Lucky we weren't killed.

Ritidian Point was about 600 ft above sea level and the cliffs dropped off to the jungle floor below. Then there was thick jungle about two miles wide to the sea. Ten of our company was sent down there on a reconnaissance patrol.

I was with this patrol. There was evidence of many of the enemy there. We spent two days checking this area over. Luckily we got out of there without a fight.

A daily average of sixty patrols, ranging from squads to re-enforced platoons was sent out. On October 24th a large sweep of the northern part of Guam was started by the Third, Ninth, and Twenty-first Regiments. By the 30th of the month all three regiments had advanced to the cliff area where we had been patrolling before. This sweep was very effective. Six hundred seventeen Japanese's were killed and eighty five were captured. One of our company was killed and eleven were wounded.

We moved to a new camp in November. We had tents with plywood floors and comfortable cots. It sure beat sleeping in fox holes which we did for three months.

Continued on next page



We had more time to play ball and other sports or just taking it easy.

Our battalion recreation officer was Cpt Anglo Bertilli. He played football for Notre Dame and was a Heisman Trophy winner in 1942.

The last I heard of him he owned a liquor store in New Jersey.

A classmate visited me one day, Earl Zastrow was in the 14th Defense Battalion and stationed on Guam. After the war he was killed in a logging accident

We started intensive training to prepare for the next operation. There was a division training exercise held near Mt Tenjo. We were using live ammo too. The 81 mortars were firing over us. One mortar round was defective and fell short. It landed in the 61 MM mortar section which killed five and wounded six more. This was a loss for our company and these guys were hard to replace.

Our regiment embarked at Guam on February 15, 1945. Aboard ship we were told where we were going. Iwo Jima was the next operation. Our ship arrived there February 18th. D-day was on the 19th. We sat on deck and watched the bombardment. I couldn't believe anyone could be alive on that island but we found out different.

The Third Division was to be held in reserve and were assigned the mission of seizing Sakishima Gunto located between Okinawa and Formosa. It didn't work out that way though.

On February 20th we were given orders to land on Iwo Jima. At noon on the 21st our company landed at Yellow Beach "I". We dug in on an area near airfield No. 1. Dead Marines lay all over the place.

That night the Japanese sent planes to bomb Iwo Jima. A few planes got through the anti-aircraft fire. They dropped some bombs on the beach area where we were but didn't do much damage. With all the ships and shore battery firing at the planes the place was lit up like the middle of the day.

On the morning of February 22nd or 21st Regiment moved in and relieved the 23rd Marines, 4th Division which was shot up pretty bad.

The enemy lay down an artillery and mortar fire the rest of the day and into the night. The morning of the 23rd we watched the 28th Marines Fifth Division take Mt Suribachi. We had been receiving lots of fire down from the mountain.

**We were real happy when we saw the Marines raise the flag there. I didn't realize at the time what an historic event that had just taken place.**

**Jerry Zeimie of my home town was one of the guys that raised the original flag. Also, Charles Linberg of Minneapolis was another of the original group.**

On the 23rd our unit moved across Motoyama Airfield No. 1. We received lots of artillery, mortar, and rocket fire. Crossing the airfield I was hit by a shell fragment. It almost tore the right sleeve of my jacket off. I was lucky because it just scratched my arm. By night we had reached the southwest approaches to airfield No. II, but we were driven back by heavy machine gun, anti-tank and mortar fire. We dug in for the night but didn't get much sleep. We lost most of the area we had taken that day and suffered heavy casualties besides.

On the 24th we continued the attack and we made excellent progress and advanced six hundred yards against organized resistance and many pillboxes. Later records showed that 800 pillboxes and defended an area of 10,000 yards long and 200 yards deep. At noon we were to attack again, but our tank support failed to arrive so we attacked without them.

Sixteen of us got to the high ground called Charlie Dog Ridge. We dug in and set up a machine gun. A group of Japanese attacked with bayonets and grenades. We were ordered to hold this high ground at all costs and we did. We began to get heavy artillery and mortar fire.

Half an hour later a mortar shell exploded on the edge of our fox hole. There were two of us in it. I don't recall the other guys name but we were both blown about 20 feet down the slope. I received shell fragments in the leg above the knee, neck, hip, and a broken ear drum. The other guy was wounded in the legs and chest. We lay there for about an hour or so. It was dark and we didn't want to move around. Soon a Corps man got to us and treated us as well as possible.

It took us most of the night to get to the beach. We had to move real slow because everybody was trigger happy and we could have been shot by our own men.

Continued on next page



**“THAT EVENING WE HELPED A GROUP OF WOUNDED.”**

In the morning we were put on a landing craft and taken out to a hospital ship. We were on stretchers at the time. The ship was the USS Pinkney. The medics cut my clothes off and took x-rays. One of the doctors was from Minnesota and knew my uncle who lived there. Two days later the hospital ship departed for Guam. I spent 2-3 weeks at a hospital there. One day I was told to get all my stuff together and then was put aboard a C-54 plane for the flight back to Pearl Harbor.

We flew most of the night and early morning. We landed at Johnson Island for fuel.

I was at Pearl Harbor for a week and then boarded a ship for the States. I arrived in San Francisco a week later. From there was sent by train to Norman Oklahoma for a short time, then onto Great Lakes Naval Hospital. I then spent a 30 day leave at home.

On August 2, 1945 I was discharged from the Marine Corps. The Third Division went on to distinguish itself in Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm.

Of the 250 men in “I” Company, only three finished the campaign. The rest were killed or wounded. After 48 years, I found a fellow I knew in “I” Company, Larry Johnsen, who lives in Colorado.

After WWII, Russ attended forestry school in Rhineland, Wisconsin. He worked for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He then went on to work and retired from Ashley Furniture, located in his hometown of Arcadia, Wisconsin, as News Leader. He was made “Master Furniture Sample Maker”, making prototypes for trade shows. After his retirement he tended to a local cemetery until his retirement at age 87.

He and his wife, Virginia, had 5 wonderful children. He continued his support to the local American Legion and VFW. They honored both Russ and Virginia in construction of a flag pole, along with a plaque with their names on it, at the local cemetery. A special dedication was held, raising the flag on the new pole for the first time.

Russ had many life passions, some of which included; fishing for trout and walleyes, rifle and shot gun

shooting, deer hunting, cutting firewood, socializing, playing card games, cooking, especially Norwegian foods and who knows what else!!

He was proud to be American, Marine, and a good family man and citizen.



Over the years I have forgotten most of the names of the guys I was with,  
but I still see their faces.

Thank you Steve, Russ' son, for submitting article. We are proud to publish it.

## ***IJAA GOLF TOURNAMENT***

### ***MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO***



Tournament organizer and golfer, LtCol Raul Sifuentes, IJAA Executive Director

## **Golf Tournament Sponsors**

### **—THANK YOU—**

On 14 September 2021 the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) hosted its first Annual Fundraising Golf Tournament at the Medal of Honor Golf Course on Marine Corps Base Quantico, raising over \$5,000!! IJAA was blessed with great volunteers, great weather, a field of 50 players, and wonderful supportive sponsors for prizes and awards.

- ◆ Ameripac- Peter Martin
- ◆ AT&T Consultants-Craig Potts
- ◆ David Scott
- ◆ Dixon Golf-Wendy Wisner
- ◆ Emblemex-Mike Thornburg
- ◆ Forest Greens Golf Course
- ◆ General Aerospace-Gene Colabatistto
- ◆ HIA-Joe Mandeville
- ◆ Il Porto Restaurant
- ◆ LtGen Norman Smith
- ◆ MajGen David Bice

- ◆ IMIA Advisors-  
Manuel Nalda
- ◆ Indiana Metalcraft-  
Ron Davis
- ◆ Johnson Foundation
- ◆ Leebcor-John Karafa
- ◆ Maggiano's Restaurant
- ◆ Military Historical Tours-  
Warren Wiedhahn
- ◆ Montclair Golf Course
- ◆ Mt. Vernon Museum and  
Foundation
- ◆ Terra Concepts-Ray Etter

IJAA is looking forward to an even bigger and better golf outing this year.



## **FINDING A GEM**

Is your military uniform stuck in the back of your closet or in a chest up in the attic?

Did you find your parent's, grandparent's military uniform while cleaning out the house?

Don't throw out history!

Are you wanting to display or hang in a plastic bag wondering what to do with it?

Whether it's a uniform or helmet or any other military item, consider preserving it properly.

Start first by documenting the item i.e. who did it belong to? When did they acquire? Picture showing item when worn, used, etc. In other words what are the historical facts

of the item. Keep this information with the item. If you purchased online, document it. If it was yours or a relative, document it.

The most important step after documenting is to properly store. Fabric can deteriorate if it is not cared for in recommended storage. Here are a few guidelines.

### **DO**

- ♦ Remove uniforms from dry-cleaner bags.
- ♦ Keep textiles and artwork out of sunlight.
- ♦ Take photos before you pack and store.
- ♦ Pack heirlooms as if nobody will see them in 10 years.
- ♦ Pad hangers and boxes with materials that will not shift/move.
- ♦ Use unbleached muslin or white sheets to cover stored textiles.
- ♦ Lightly pad the uniform to help fibers maintain shape.

### **DON'T**

- ♦ Don't store items in garage, attic, sheds or under bed.
- ♦ Display uniforms, leather or artwork in direct sunlight.
- ♦ Try any intense or reconstructive measures without help from a conservator.
- ♦ Use newspaper for packing material.
- ♦ Use double sided tape, Velcro or glue.
- ♦ Hang textiles on thin, plastic or wooden hangers.
- ♦ Create an environment that could harbor or encourage moisture or bugs.

The Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, VA curator, can be helpful with any questions you may have.



# THE INFAMOUS TUN TAVERN

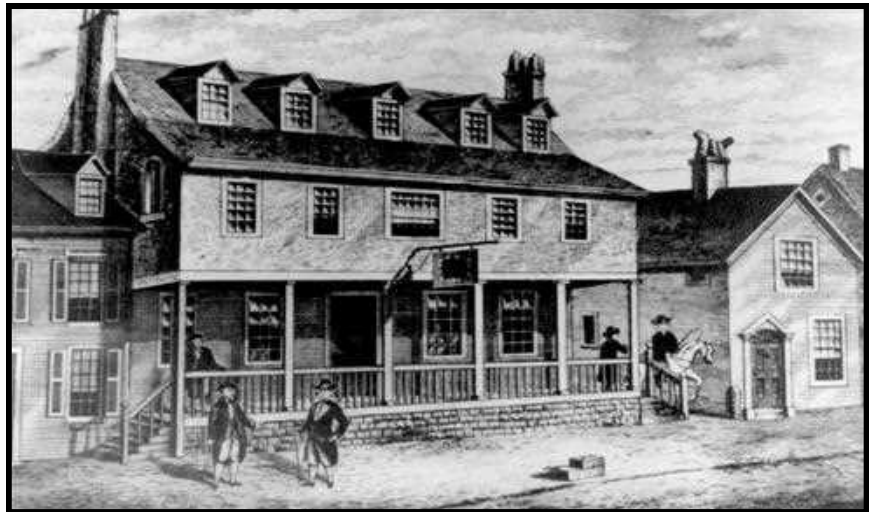
The Marine Corps was born in Tun Tavern on 10-November 1775. But beyond that the Marine's recollection for detail will probably get fuzzy.

So here is the straight scoop.

In the year 1685, Sammuel Carpenter built a huge "brew house" in Philadelphia. He located this tavern on the waterfront at the corner of Water Street and Tun Alley. The old English word "tun" means a cask, barrel, or keg of beer. So, with his new beer tavern on Tun Alley, Carpenter elected to christen the new waterfront brewery with a logical name, Tun Tavern.

Tun Tavern quickly gained a reputation for serving fine beer. Beginning 37 years later in 1732, the first meetings of the St. John's No. 1 Lodge of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Temple were held in the tavern. An American of note, Benjamin Franklin, was its third Grand Master. Even today the Masonic Temple of Philadelphia recognizes Tun Tavern as the birthplace of Masonic teachings in America.

Roughly ten years later in the early 1740's, the new proprietor expanded Tun Tavern and gave the addition a new name, "Peggy Mullan's Red Hot Beef Steak Club at Tun Tavern." The new restaurant became a smashing commercial success and was patronized by notable Americans. In 1747 the St. Andrews Society, a charitable group dedicated to assisting poor immigrants from Scotland, was founded in the tavern.



Nine years later, then Col. Benjamin Franklin organized the Pennsylvania Militia. He used Tun Tavern as a gathering place to recruit a regiment of soldiers to go into battle against the Indian uprisings that were plaguing the American colonies. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and the Continental Congress later met in Tun Tavern as the American colonies prepared for independence from the English Crown.

On November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress commissioned Samuel Nicholas to raise two Battalions of Marines. That very day, Nicholas set up shop in Tun Tavern. He appointed Robert Mullan, then the proprietor of the tavern, to the job of chief Marine Recruiter - serving, of course, from his place of business at Tun Tavern

Prospective recruits flocked to the tavern, lured by cold beer and opportunity to serve in the new Corps of Marines. So, yes, the Marine Corps and the tavern thrived during this new relationship. If youu haven't paid a visit there, it's worth going for the uniqueness and history. And of course for a nice cold glass of beer.



***WE WANT YOU—  
Veterans, and Families  
IWO JIMA  
AND  
OTHER BATTLES IN  
THE PACIFIC WAR***

***Can we feature your story?  
Your story is one to be told and shared***

Where you grew up.

Family... growing up and now.

When did you enter the military—volunteered or drafted ?

Boot camp (traveled by bus, train, car)? Your experience in boot camp.

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***

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

## IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (IJAA) MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM



**PATROTIC FLASKS**



**VIETNAM POCKET WATCH**



**IWO JIMA POCKET WATCH**



**PEWTER STATUE WITH BLACK SAND**



**LAPEL PINS**



**IWO JIMA KNIFE**



**GIFT BOX W/ BLACK SANDS**



**IWO JIMA SHIRT-Blue**



## IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (IJAA) MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM



IWO JIMA BRACELET w/SAND



75TH Anniversary Polo Shirt



IJAA POLO SHIRT



2—SIDED

CHALLENGE COINS



STICKERS



PATCH



CAPS

## MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

ITEM	OPTIONS	PRICE
<b>IWO JIMA BRACELET</b>	Quantity: _____	X \$45.00 = _____
<b>75th ANNIVERSARY POLO SHIRT</b>		X \$50.00 = _____
Men's Sizes: S/M/L/XL/XXL	Quantity: _____	X \$50.00 = _____
Women's Sizes: P/S/M/L/XL	Quantity: _____	X \$50.00 = _____
Color: Black		
<b>IJAA POLO SHIRT</b>		
Colors: White/Red/Green/Blue		
Men's Sizes: S/M/L/XL/XXL	Quantity: _____	X \$45.00 = _____
	Size: _____ Color: _____	
Women's Sizes: P/S/M/L/XL	Quantity: _____	X \$45.00 = _____
	Size: _____ Color: _____	
<b>CHALLENGER COIN</b>		
75TH Anniversary Coin	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
Iwo Jima	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
<b>IWO JIMA BRACELET STICKER</b>	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
<b>PATCH</b>	Quantity: _____	X \$3.00 = _____
	Quantity: _____	X \$3.00 = _____
<b>CAPS</b>		
White-Blue-Green-Rd-Gray-75th	Quantity: _____ Color: _____	X 15.00 = _____
<b>IJAA PATRIOTIC FLASKS</b>		
IJAA	Quantity: _____	X \$30.00 = _____
US/JAPAN	Quantity: _____	X \$30.00 = _____
USMC	Quantity: _____	X \$30.00 = _____
US/USMC	Quantity: _____	X \$30.00 = _____
<b>POCKET WATCH</b>		
WWII-IWO JIMA	Quantity: _____	X \$40.00 = _____
Vietnam	Quantity: _____	X \$40.00 = _____
<b>PEWTER STATUE w/black sand</b>	Quantity: _____	X \$45.00 = _____
<b>LABEL PINS</b>		
Iwo Jima	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
US/Japan	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
<b>IWO JIMA KNIFE</b>	Quantity: _____	X \$40.00 = _____
<b>GIFT BOX w/Black Sand</b>	Quantity: _____	X \$25.00 = _____
<b>IWO JIMA BLUE SHIRT w/Long Sleeves</b>		
Men's Sizes: S/M/L/XL/XXL	Quantity: _____ Size _____	X \$45.00 = _____





### Iwo Jima Commemorative 3-Cent Stamps

**“Woody” Williams Autograph  
Single— Sheet (50 Stamps)**

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ X \$200.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Single Sheet (50 Stamps)**

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ X \$100.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

4X4 Sheet \_\_\_\_\_

### ORDER FORM

**Please complete order form  
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America,**

**P.O. Box 680**

**Quantico, VA 22134**

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**\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**+8.00 For Shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SC Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

IJAA is a Non Profit with IRS #80-025508., All proceeds go to funding Iwo and Pacific Vets return to Iwo Jima & to events..



# Gold Star Families Memorial



Woody Williams Gold Star Families Foundation: Goals of Establishing Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments. The Monuments provide a place of permanence for Gold Star Families to gather and utilize as they see fit. These Monuments belong to them and their fallen Loved Ones. They are intended to achieve the following goals:

Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments are a two-sided tribute made of black granite. One side bears the words: **Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who sacrificed a Love One for our Freedom.** On the other side of the monument, there are scenes etched on each of the four panels: **Homeland, Family, Patriot and Sacrifice.** At the center of this tribute, is a silhouette of a saluting service member which represents the legacy of the loved ones who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Together these features tell each community's unique story based upon the Pillars of the Foundation.

**Iwo Jima Association of America**

**P.O. Box 680**

**Quantico, VA 22134**

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***The Black Sands publication of the Iwo Jima Association of American, is published twice a year. It is dedicated to all who served on Iwo Jima and to perpetuate the memory and history of this infamous battle. Opinions expressed are strictly those of the individual author and are not necessarily those of the Iwo Jima Association of American.***

***All suggestions or articles are welcome and should be sent to:***

***Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) -***

***P.O. Box 680, Quantico, VA 22134***

***Phone: 703-212-8128***