

BLACK SANDS PUBLICATION

IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

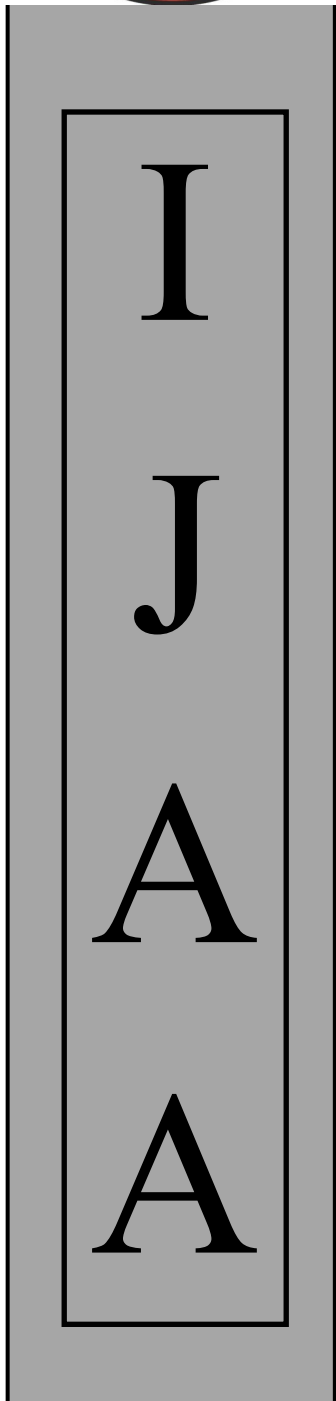
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 2
Fall 2022

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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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Chairman of the Board's Message
Iwo Jima Association of America
LtGen Norman Smith, USMC (Ret)



Greetings,

Let us all come to attention, bow our heads followed by a smart hand salute in honor and memory of our brother Marine, Iwo vet and an American hero, CWO4 Woody Williams. At age 98 Woody recently passed away. He was the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from WW II, having been awarded this medal for his heroic action on Iwo Jima. America mourned and honored him with a Lying in Honor ceremony in the US Capitol Rotunda. Through the good office of US Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas, IJAA had five representatives at this memorial, MajGen David Bice, LtCol Art Sifuentes, Laura Leppert, Dave Babel and Linda Griffin.

With the help of his family, Woody founded the Woody Williams Foundation which honors families who have lost a loved one in service to the Nation with appropriate memorials in almost all States. He was a devoted member of IJAA and did us great honor when he filmed a stirring video for our most recent IJAA reunion. As your Chairman, I recommend that this video be shown during each future IJAA reunion.

CWO4 Woody Williams will be sorely missed, his energy and devotion will not be forgotten.

Close coordination with the Government of Japan and the appropriate US government agencies and military commands continues for the planned Reunion of Honor on Iwo on 25 March 2023. There is, of course, strict attention being paid to the affect that the global pandemic may have on this event. My thanks goes to MajGen Bice, LtCol Sifuentes and many others for the thoughtful and careful planning underway for this vital event.

Additionally, I thank the same two members and many others for the planning for the IJAA reunion presently scheduled for February 2023. The efforts of so many people are greatly appreciated for their work to ensure the success of IJAA in bringing the Pacific War of WW II to the attention of the public and for the ever growing enhancement of our relations with the Government of Japan and the Japanese people.

Lastly I want to mention that your financial support for IJAA is still needed and welcomed. Thanks.
Semper Fi and Keep Safe

Norman H. Smith
LtGen USMC (Ret)
Chairman"

President's Message

Iwo Jima Association of America

MajGen David Bice, USMC (Ret)



Greetings!

I hope you and your family have enjoyed good health and happiness these past few months. Sadly, we have received a number of notifications of the passing of IJAA members, which are listed in this issue of *Black Sands*. Many of the notifications state the date of passing as some time ago, which highlights the need for all of us to make arrangements to keep the IJAA office up to date on our individual status. This Black Sands issue is dedicated to the late CWO4 Hershel (Woody) Williams, MOH, who passed away on June 29, 2022. For anyone who knew him, Woody was a gentle, humble Marine who lived a life of honor and respect for our Nation, the Medal of Honor, Gold Star Families, and every Veteran who had ever served our country. I had the pleasure of enjoying a dinner with him at our 75th Anniversary Reunion. As we talked, I tried to imagine how such a small man could have picked up a flame thrower on Iwo Jima and repeatedly charge pill box after pill box, returning to the lines to pick up a refilled flame thrower and then charge forward again. I have handled a flame thrower and it's like throwing a jerry can on your back with a hose and nozzle attached. After the war, Woody returned to his home state of West Virginia, where he later joined the Marine Corps Reserves and attained the rank of Chief Warrant 4. He retired from the Reserves in 1969. He told me his most cherished accomplishment was the founding of the Woody Williams Foundation, where he constructed monuments across the nation to honor Gold Star Families. Following his death, he was honored by Congress with the very rare distinction to Lie in Honor at the Capitol. Along with Board Member Mrs. Laura Leppert, Executive Director LtCol Art Sifuentes, and IJAA Secretary Linda Griffin, I went to the Capitol to pay tribute to Woody for his service to our Nation on Iwo Jima and in the years since. We have all been blessed to have Woody in our ranks and our Nation is so much richer because of him and others like him. God Bless and Rest in Peace Woody!

Planning is well under way for the 78th Anniversary Reunion and Symposium at the **Crystal City Hilton Hotel** in Arlington, VA to be held February 16-19, 2023. Take time to read about the Reunion and Symposium and all the activities planned, which are listed throughout this edition of *Black Sands*. Make your plans now to attend.

As I write this column, we are solidifying plans with US and Japanese authorities for a US-Japan Joint Reunion of Honor ceremony to be held on Iwo Jima on March 25, 2023. Military Historical Tours of Woodbridge, VA will again be coordinating and arranging travel to and from Iwo Jima via Guam. Check them out at www.miltours.com. As COVID is expected to be with us for some time, stay up-to-date on COVID travel requirement to Guam and Japan. Please make sure the IJAA office has your contact information, especially your email address, so that we can keep you informed of this and other events.

With warmest best wishes.

David F. Bice
MajGen USMC (Ret)

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

LTCOL RAUL “ART” SIFUENTES

Executive Director

Iwo Jima Association of America



Greetings,

They say there is no rest for the weary....Well, we aren't exactly "weary" just not yet anyway, but your Iwo Jima Association of America World Headquarters is indeed busy as our staff and volunteers prepare for a gang-buster 2023 78th Anniversary year.

Our planning for the 78th Anniversary Reunion and Symposium has started. Mark your calendars for 16-18 February to be at the Crystal City Hilton Hotel in Arlington. Same great hotel as earlier this year.

You will notice it is one day shorter than past events. So, we will have three very full days of welcome aboard and registration, tours and an expanded symposium on Saturday followed by our evening Gala Banquet. Note this is our main fundraiser, so please pass the word, tell your friends and bring your credit card as there will be some terrific silent auction items!

Got a nominee for the Woody Williams Spirit Award? Let's hear it!! Invitations will go out to Gold Star families, Wounded Warriors and active duty. Spread the word... wonderful camaraderie, see old friends and make new ones. We will be joined by the 5th Marine Division Association, who by the way, will be hosting IJAA in San Antonio later in the year... so stay tuned on that!

The Reunion/Symposium is quickly followed by the Guam/Iwo Jima Tour. We have received the "continue to march" notification from the Japanese government to continue planning for the 78th Anniversary and the Joint Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima (aka IwoTo) scheduled for 25 March 2023, the current Japanese Ambassador to the US, the Honorable Ambassador Koji Tomita; and we anticipate Representative Yoshitaka Shindo to attend.

Again...spread the word and join us for the 78th Anniversary Commemoration. We welcome all sponsors and donors as we continue to ensure the perpetuation of the legacy and commemoration of our great Pacific Island veterans to whom the nation owes so much. Our funds are dedicated to all Iwo Jima veterans by providing travel and accommodations for all IJAA events, our educational outreach and future scholarship programs.

Semper Fidelis.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raul Sifuentes". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

LtCol Raul Sifuentes
USMC (Ret)
Executive Director

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt taken from a recent letter to IJAA Chairman of the Board, LtGen Norman Smith from Japanese Member of Parliament Yoshitaka Shindo:
Representative Shindo is the grandson of LtGen Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander of forces during the battle of Iwo Jima. Representative Shindo is a long-standing friend and supporter of IJAA and the annual US-Japan Joint Reunion of Honor held on the island now called Iwo To.

Mr. Norman Smith
Chairman, Iwo Jima Association of America,
LtGen, USMC (Ret)

“As you mentioned in your letter, I was also together with the late Lieutenant General Snowden and listened to the address by Prime Minister Abe to a Joint Meeting of the U.S. Congress on April 29th, 2015. I vividly remember that Prime Minister Abe honored Lieutenant General Snowden's accomplishments and he spoke passionately about the unparalleled friendship between Japan and the U.S, saying "What should we call this, if not a miracle of history? Enemies that had fought each other so fiercely have become friends bonded in spirit.”

“I pledge to carry on the great Japan-U.S. relationship that former Prime Minister Abe developed, and to cherish the Japan-U.S. Reunion of Honor at Iwo To as a testimony to the unprecedentedly strong friendship between our two countries.”



Member of the House of Representatives of Japan
SHINDO Yoshitaka

CWO4 HERSHEL (WOODY) WILLIAMS, USMC, MOH



We Remember You
We Honor You
We Thank You



1923-2022



Woody was five-foot-six, at 135 pounds, he was never the biggest Marine. Yet he was a force of nature on the battlefield. At Iwo Jima Woody marched through a hailstorm of gunfire, single-handedly operated six flamethrowers against Japanese forces for several hours and eventually cleared a path for the American troops. It was February 23, 1945, the same day Marines raised the American flag atop Mount Suribachi.

“Hershel “Woody” Williams lived a long life full of courage, honor and sacrifice - all that we might have Freedom. As the last surviving WWII Medal of Honor recipient. Woody’s lifetime of service is an inspiration to us all.

It was a tremendous honor to be the first recipient of the Hershel “Woody” Williams Spirit Award from the Iwo Jima Association of America, and to have him present the award to me virtually this year.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Woody’s family and friends. Woody, you have fought the fight valiantly. Rest in Peace.

*LtGov Earle-Sears,
Commonwealth of Virginia*



“On behalf of the entire 1.5 million-member VFW, our deepest condolences go out to Woody’s entire family, and we salute one of the last greatest of the “Greatest Generation”.

CWO4 HERSHEL (WOODY) WILLIAMS, USMC, MOH



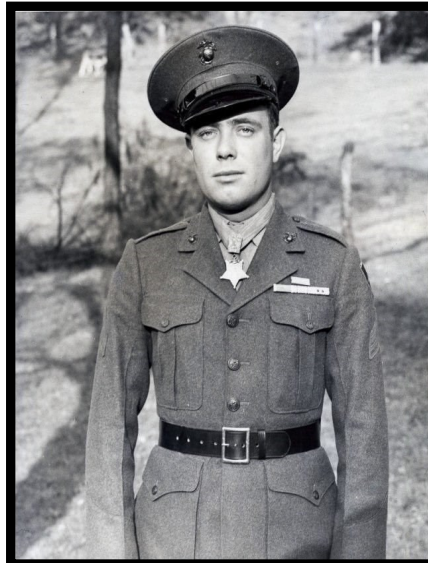
THE USS HERSHEL “Woody” WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONED IN NORFOLK IN 2020.

I only knew him for 10 years. But in that time I did know that he had a big heart, a giving way of himself to others. When asked of him, he never said “no”. I watched the countless times at various events where he would sit at a desk with a pen in his arthritic hand signing pictures, documents, papers, hats, etc...time after time.

He was always a strong supporter of IJAA and gave us so much. God Bless Brent Casey for his unselfish devotion to his wonderful patriot, hero, husband, father, grandfather. His devotion to the Gold Star monument effort was well-know, it was his passion to ensure commemoration and recognition of the families ‘sacrifices.

He was looking forward to going back to Iwo Jima this next year. I will miss his smile. He is now in good hands

Raul (Art) Sifuentes
Executive Director, IJAA



In addition to the Medal of Honor, he also received the Purple Heart. He attained the

rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 before pursuing a career with what is now the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he spent years as a veterans service representative.

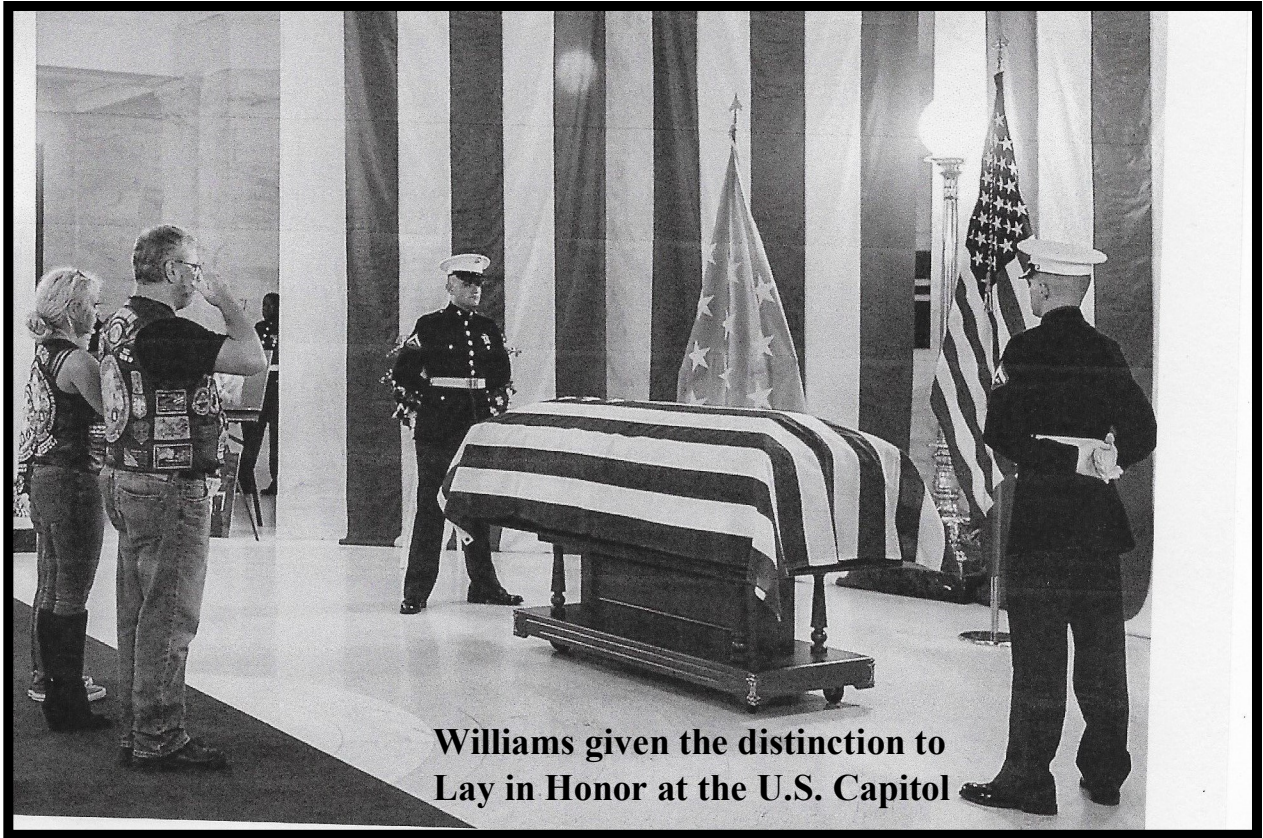
He lived in West Virginia and had a horse farm.



Woody’s wife Ruby Meredith died in 2007. They had 2 daughters, several grandchildren. .

If you walked into his kitchen he kept several vials of sand from the beaches of Iwo Jima.

CWO4 HERSHEL (WOODY) WILLIAMS, USMC, MOH



**Williams given the distinction to
Lay in Honor at the U.S. Capitol**

Statement by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on the Passing of Hershel Williams
June 29, 2022

Today, America lost not just a valiant Marine and a Medal of Honor recipient, but an important link to our Nation's fight against tyranny in the Second World War. Woody Williams gave to his nation on the battlefield and after, establishing a foundation to honor and recognize Gold Star Families. He was also the nation's last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from World War II. I hope every American will pause to reflect on his service and that of an entire generation that sacrificed so much to defend the cause of freedom and democracy.

Woody was dedicated to Gold Star families. He was sensitive to the sufferings of our military families as they also serve our Country. Woody and his foundation are responsible for establishing 62 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments across the United States with more underway. The original Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was designed by Woody Williams and the first such monument was dedicated in his home state of West Virginia in 2013.



MYSTORY

PRIVATE BROWN - HOW I BECAME A CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANT

***(Written 1 Sept 1944,
Camp Pendleton California)***

That machine gun duty was for the birds! We were on maneuvers with a tank outfit and I believe those tanks chased us all over the hundred thousand and some odd acres of Camp Pendleton. We'd get the gun all set up in location and here would come the tanks. We'd have to hurry and tear the gun down and try to outrun the tanks to a new location. I carried ammo for a 50 cal. machine gun and it got mighty heavy. This training was extremely difficult and taxed my physical strength to the utmost.

Then something happened which took me out of machine gun training and changed my future.

I got a "Dear John" letter. I didn't think it would ever happen to me, but it did. The next few days were pure misery. We were on the run from morning till night and with the mental anguish I was going through I thought I might crack.

It was a standing joke in the Marine Corps, although I didn't know it was a joke then-that anytime somebody got into such difficulty as I was in, he should go see the chaplain. So I made a formal request. The C.O. thought I was just trying to get out of duty but nevertheless had to comply with my request. He ordered his jeep driver to take me to see the Regimental Chaplain. When we got to his office, I found him gone for the day and a note stating that the Division Chaplain was taking over for him. I told the Sgt jeep driver to take me back but he'd said no, that since I had wanted to see a chaplain by hell he was going to see that I did whether I wanted to or not.

The Sgt took me to the division headquarters, building down the hall, past the General's and staff officers' offices and shoved me through a door marked "Division Chaplain's Office". On the other side of a shiny topped desk sat a distinguished full Commander in the Navy, the first officer of that high rank I had ever seen. (Since all Marines are Combatants, corpsmen, Marine chaplains, etc., are assigned from the Navy.) He held a big black cigar in his mouth and with all that gold braid looked plenty formidable to me. He was very friendly, however, and asked me to come in and sit down and asked how he could help me. I told him I didn't know that he could, but that I surely needed help from someone.

Well, I told him the whole story about how this girl I thought so much of had gone and married another fellow. He listened sympathetically. When I was through he said, "Pvt. Brown, that's the saddest story I have ever heard." Then he surprised me by asking how much money I had. I pulled out my billfold and counted out a dollar and twenty-eight cents which was all I had.

Oh, that's not enough," he said. He then reached into his pocket and pulled out a ten and a five-dollar bill and shoved them across the shiny desk toward me. I still didn't get it and asked him what I was supposed to do with that.

"Private Brown," he said, "there's only one thing that's going to get you feeling better and that's to get this worry completely off your mind. You've got to do something to dull the pain and I'm told the best thing is alcohol. You can't get drunk on a dollar twenty-eight, and so I'm giving you the fifteen. Don't worry about getting it back to me."

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Chaplains Role

For over 200 years, military chaplains have accompanied U.S. forces wherever they have served. Wherever our military is, chaplains and enlisted religious support personnel are there to help and serve military members and other authorized personnel. Chaplains are ordained by individual religious denominations they provide religious worship services, rites, sacraments, ordinances, and ministrations to military members and their families worldwide. They state their mission is to "nurture the living, care for the sick or wounded, minister to prisoners or prisoners of war, and honor the dead." Chaplains also assist military personnel and family members in dealing with personal concerns ,etc.

I picked up the money and started for the door when it dawned on me that I didn't know how to get drunk. I didn't know how to get out of the situation but I knew I had to. I told the Commander that I surely appreciated his offer but that I couldn't get off the base. Our outfit was on standby and no one leaves were given for any reason. He laughed and said, "Don't worry about that. When the Military Police picked you up in a day or two and puts you in the brig, just have them call me. I'll come and bail you out." (Strange, but in all my association with Chaplain Cuthriell, I knew him to never advise drinking as a remedy for anything!

I then told him I was sorry but that I didn't drink. "What do you mean you don't drink," he said, you're a Marine aren't you?" "Yes Sir," I said, " but I don't drink." "Well why don't you drink as a remedy?" Knowing how some people felt about Mormons, I reluctantly had to tell him that I was a Mormon and that drinking was against it. He then asked me what else Mormons didn't do and I told him we didn't use tobacco either. (He was still puffing on that big cigar.) And then he totally surprised me by asking me a whole lot of

questions. Actually, it was really a rather thorough interview.

He asked not only about my beliefs, my morals, my family background, my schooling, etc. He wanted to know about qualification on the rifle range and with small arms (Marksman plus), and if I was licensed to a drive a jeep (I was). He wanted to know if I could type (twenty words a minute) and take dictation (barely). Could I sing church hymns and maybe lead the singing (I guessed I could). And yes, I could probably even play a few simple hymns on the portable keyboard that folded up like a suitcase.

He then asked me if I use profanity. I told him no, that was against my religion also. He said, "That settles it, I think there is only one man in this outfit who doesn't drink, doesn't gamble, doesn't chase the girls, doesn't use profanity, and can shoot straight, I want him in my office and by my side when we go into combat. How would you like to be my assistant?"

Addendum: I was with Chaplain Cuthriell for about a year until his release from the Navy following Iwo Jima. We got along marvelously well and were perhaps as close friends as a high-ranking officer (he was promoted to Captain, USN), and an enlisted man could be. After the war we corresponded often. Later Jean and I visited him and his wife at their home in LA Jolla, California. He was always interested in everything we were doing and would ask about our children individually. He knew all six of them by name and age.

Chaplain Cuthriell was one of the finest Christian gentlemen I will ever know. He was gracious and kind and patient with me under every circumstance. Being his assistant saved my life on Iwo Jima and as his guard, I think I may have saved his. (That's another story.)

My being assigned as a Chaplain's Assistant was most unusual and something of a miracle. In the first place it was unheard of for a chaplain to have someone not of his faith as his assistant. And to be a Mormon was exceptional indeed. However, I needed to be there as I could then be of help to our LDS Group Leader, Lt A. Theodore Tuttle. If we needed trucks to bring men in to services, or boats to bring them in from ships in the harbor, a quonsut hut to hold services, I could write an order and the Chaplain signed without question. Later on, in Iwo Jima I had access to burial records and was able to locate the site of our church members which we were then able to dedicate the graves.

Continued next page

Then Corporal Kenneth “Kent” Brown was 20, he was about to board a train headed for Navy indoctrination when he and 30 others were informed that they had just volunteered for the Marines.

Brown’s duties went beyond being a chaplain’s assistant’s when they arrived on Iwo Jima. On the first day, Brown was held back and helped carry wounded aboard ship. He says, “Many knew they were dying” and had last requests about what to send home, so Brown and the chaplain took great efforts to fulfill their wishes. Under heavy fire on the second day, Brown carried desperately needed supplies to exhausted corpsmen and then spent the remainder of the day carrying stretchers, giving morphine shots, and helping wounded any way he could. Looking at the casualties on the beach, Brown thought the battle was lost, but on the fourth day, he witnessed the raising of the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi. “We knew then we were going to win.” The battle ended 31 days later.

Later, Brown served as a replacement machine gunner with the 26th Marines. When they were having difficulty taking a hill, his commanding officer said, “We’re going to take the hill tomorrow morning. If you men have anything to write, this is the time to do it.” While the Marines sat writing letters home, a runner came up saying that the chaplain’s assistant was needed at the makeshift cemetery. The next morning, while Brown helped bury the dead, his company was mostly wiped out. Brown believes that this is one of many experiences when being the chaplain’s assistant saved his life. The 5th Marine Division was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions on Iwo Jima.

Brown was later assigned to the 2nd Division, and as they prepared for the invasion of Japan, the United States dropped nuclear bombs on the country. Brown spent 10 months as part of the occupation troops, continuing to serve as the chaplain’s assistant.

Corporal Brown says, “I learned that freedom is not free. We paid an awful price to keep that flag flying on Iwo Jima and elsewhere throughout the world. People think we won the war easily -----

WE DIDN’T.

INCIDENT OF IWO

There was no chance to sleep while on the line since it was not safe to relax for a minute. Our squad had gone for about three days without any rest and I felt as if I would die from sheer exhaustion. Finally, they let us go to a rear area for a few hours of sleep hoping we manage to do so with all the noise and shelling around us. I remember that we got in front of an artillery battery where we thought it was safe. I dug a shallow foxhole and could hardly wait to spread out a blanket and lie down. The sand was burning hot with the mid-afternoon sun blazing down. With our shells going overhead and an occasional enemy mortar shell exploding nearby, the din was terrific. Never the less, in a few minutes I was soundly asleep. Suddenly, however, I was awakened by a strange sensation. To my great astonishment my feet were cold; in fact they felt like blocks of ice. Having grown up in Idaho, I knew what cold feet felt like and I did have cold feet. I sat up and attempted to wrap my feet in the blanket I had under me. While in this position I heard a mortar shell coming in. Since I was sitting, I hunkered down and put my head between my knees instead of lying back prone which I would have normally done. The shell practically landed on top of me and I was knocked senseless from the explosion. When I recovered, I noticed a hot piece of shrapnel had imbedded itself in the exact place where my head would have been had I been lying down. I learned later that approximately the time of this happening my dad was lying in a hospital. The family members had all been praying individually for my safety but on this particular day my father did a rare thing and called them all to come to his room. He told them that he had a special feeling that Kenneth was in some particular danger and suggested that he lead them in a united prayer. As my sister Maxine and I figured it out later, this prayer was said at about the exact time that a half-world away my feet became icy cold and I was forced to make a move which saved my life.

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FLIGHT TO PUSAN

Whenever any Marine in our division was killed, by accident or otherwise, a representative from the Chaplain's section was required to be in attendance when the body was recovered. I rarely got assigned this duty and only when there was no chaplain available. One time in Japan one of our Marines fell off a bridge and drowned. I went with the group of divers who spent a cold night in the water before finding the fellow. The occasion for the story that follows was when a Marine was killed while on a visit to Korea.

Kyushu, Japan, where I was stationed, is relatively close to southern Korea, the nearest city being Pusan. Marines were sometimes allowed to go to Korea on a R & R leave. It was understood in an agreement with the Korean government that Marines on leave would be allowed to visit only certain sections of the city. Apparently one Marine got lost and wandered into a restricted area. When Korean police ordered him (in Korean which he didn't understand), to stop, he began to run away and they shot him. I was sent with a major who understood Korean and some graves registration people to go retrieve the body.

We flew from Sasebo to Fukuoka on the side of Japan plane in an old DC 3 cargo plane. We sat on a narrow bench in the cargo area. There were no windows. The plane was not pressurized. It was a bumpy ride and we flew at a high elevation so that we were both sick and freezing by the time we landed. When we later took off in the same plane from the Fukuoka airfield, I was sure we were going to crash. Because the airstrip was not long enough for take-off, the pilot ran the plane full speed over to end of the runway which ended at the top of a cliff. The plane swooped down over the cliff but just before hitting the ocean below was able to sufficient airspeed so that we flew away.
SCARY!

At Fukuoka we boarded a PBV seaplane for the ride to Korea. The PBV was a slow-moving craft used much in the war to rescue survivors cast adrift in the sea. It was a crowded but rather nice flight over. When we got to Pusan, our MPs took us to the police station where they had brought the dead Marine. The police and government officials were extremely frightened as they thought they were in for some real trouble after killing an American Marine. They did a lot of bowing and scraping and a lot of rapid-fire apologizing in Korean. It was later deemed an accident and no fault of the Koreans.

There was no room to carry the corpse in the cargo area and since I was the last to board the plane I got to be his companion in the two-seat section. We buckled him in the best we could, but not good enough to keep him from sliding around during the bouncy ride back to Japan. It would not have been so bad except that by the time we left it was pitch dark and the cabin lights were not working. I held things down the best I could but was very much relieved when I finally made it back to base!! That ride gave me a few nightmares.

Roles in World War II

The PBV was the most numerous aircraft of its kind, with around 3,300 aircraft built.

During World War II, PBVs were used in anti-submarine warfare



(Left) A Consolidated PBV-5A Catalina Patrol Aircraft receives repairs to a gun blister at a Pacific Navy repair base, April 1945.



Continued next page



“BOOK BY GREEN SIDE OUT “

Authors: Major Duncan, USMC (ret) and Captain Moore Jr. USMC (Ret) . Published 1980.

ALPHA SIERRA: Example of phonetic alphabet where each letter is assigned a word for easy identification of the letter.

BALL BEARING BAM: Mail Clerk

BAM: Woman Marine, “Bam is acronym of male term of affection for our sister Marines.

BAR: Browning Automatic Rifle. The grand piano of the weapons symphony. Now obsolete, having been replaced by M-14/M-16.

BASIC SCHOOL: Initial training for new second lieutenants which provides the basic skills in saluting, cocktail partying, human relations, basic reading and warfare.

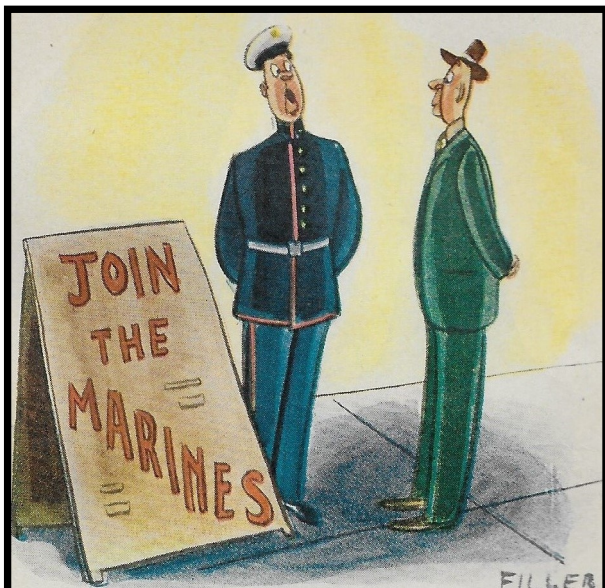
BROWN BAGGER: Name of a delightful little beer joint outside Main Gate of Camp Lejeune. Also name given to Marines who do not eat in Mess Hall. Indicates he brings his lunch in paper bag. For Staff NCO’s indicates he brings his beer for lunch in paper bag.

Important information needed to function in military life!

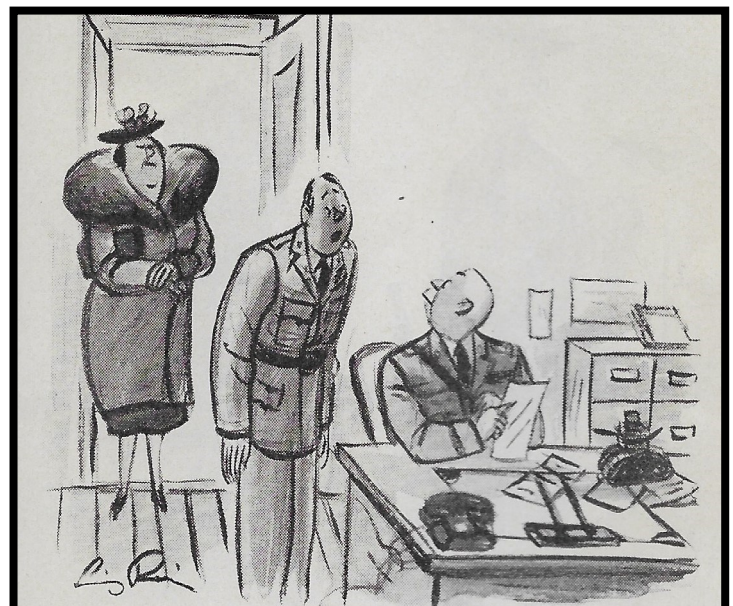


Laughter Corner

Laughter is the shortest distance between 2 people



“And in the morning you get up any time you like—so long as it isn’t later than 5:30”



“Private Langdon’s mother is here, sir, to find out why he hasn’t been promoted”

The Amazing Adventures of My Father, Captain Charles Menzies, USMC

My Dad, Charles Menzies, grew up enjoying the bucolic hillsides, valleys and shorelines of Staten Island, NY, one of the five boroughs of New York City. He loved to sail along the shoreline and steam shellfish on the beaches with his friends. He played soccer and excelled at fencing. But what he really enjoyed the most was flying. He learned to fly at age 16 and was happiest soaring amongst the clouds, skimming over the countryside, dipping below the NYC bridges and testing his skills at aerobatic flying.

He was just 17 when, with permission, he borrowed his family's brand new car to visit his friend who lived on the other side of the island. Keep in mind that this was 1940 - at the end of the Great Depression- so this new car purchase was a Big Deal. Unfortunately, when Dad pulled the car out of his friend's garage to return home, he brushed the new car against the garage's wall and damaged the side of the car. He was so upset with the incident that he actually became violently sick to his stomach. At that very moment, his father, miles away in the family home, sat up in his chair where he was reading and said to his wife, "The Lad's in trouble. I must go to him." And when Dad recovered from his bout of sickness, he "knew" that his father was on his way to him. That was the first incident that Dad was aware of both his and his Father's shared ability of a sixth sense or second sight. This gift would stand him in good stead and keep him safe throughout his life.

Dad was the only son of 2 Scottish parents who emigrated to NYC in 1911 and became naturalized US Citizens in 1919. As a former British subject, Dad's father was able to assist Dad in getting a job at the British Passport Office in Manhattan where he had close contacts. Dad held this job after his high school graduation in Jan 1941 through his semesters at Wagner College on Staten Island, NY up until his enlistment in the Marine Corps and call to active duty.

Dad's duties included being a messenger and courier, and conducted several "special assignments." I remember the first time I asked Dad about this job at the Passport Office. He shared that sometimes his job was ordinary - "no big deal". Other times, it was exciting. He also spent a lot of time at the British Embassy. Both locations provided many opportunities to meet all sorts of individuals, many who would become famous or notable in our history books because the passport office was the front for the British Secret Intelligence Service in the US [SIS] which was later named the Military Intelligence Section 6 - aka MI6!

In May 1940, MI6 set up British Security Co-ordination (BSC), on the authorization of Prime Minister Winston Churchill. This was a covert organization based in New York City, headed by Sir William



Sasebo as we arrived in 1945



STILL FEUDAL JAPAN
(IN THE HILLS SEPT. 1945)



Cave off Ridge Spine, Iwo Jima

Continued next page



Japanese Sword

Stephenson intended to investigate enemy activities, prevent sabotage against British interests in the Western Hemisphere [the Americas], and mobilize pro-British opinion in the Americas.

Dad's father introduced him to Major General Sir Stewart G. Menzies, Chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service, codename "C". Remember, they shared the same Scottish surname and fellow Scottish clansmen always support each other! And as it turned out, Dad's immediate boss was Sir William Stephenson, the famous spymaster known as "Intrepid".

I remember when Dad told me that one time Lord Louis Mountbatten had arrived in NYC and my father was ordered to escort Lord Mountbatten's daughter Patricia around NYC for the week they were there. Dad showed Patricia all the wonderful NYC sights and escorted her on her shopping sprees, much to Patricia's delight. She was very nice and very beautiful, and she and my father became friends who enjoyed each other's company. They stayed in contact until Dad's enlistment.

But most of the time Dad would travel between the Passport Office and the British Embassy at the New York port's couriering briefcases or

There were several "other destinations" with unnamed buildings or offices with only addresses viewed on the building facades.

When I asked dad about more specifics about his activities, he told me he would be given a briefcase or packages and instructed to take a cab to specific destinations. The briefcase would be handcuffed to his wrist and he could only use the taxicab driven by Issy.

Issy, while friendly to dad, he was all business. He was very muscular and strong. Izzy would always safely transport Dad to the destination and return him to the Passport Office.

I remember being astounded with this revelation and had fired off a number of questions, eager to comprehend... "Dad, did you know what was in the briefcases or packages? And why only Izzy's cab? Didn't you think it strange when the briefcases you carried were *handcuffed* to you and that you were instructed to *only* ride in the taxi cab that Izzy drove? Didn't you ever feel nervous about such arrangements?" Dad replied matter-of-factly, that he didn't know what was in the briefcases or packages. But Izzy would only drive for the Passport Office and Dad felt comfortable and "safe" while in his cab for Izzy had a machine gun under the front seat!

When dad enlisted in November 1942, he wanted to be a Marine Corps aviator after all, He was enrolled in the Navy V-12 Program enrolled in the Bucknell University he would often fly home to Staten Island when on breaks. When called up to Active Duty, he progressed through Officers Candidate School and became

competent in the Japanese Language and earned his Expert Rifleman, Bayonet and Small Bore Weapons Qualifications. He was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division. He was stationed at Camp Tarawa at Parker Ranch on Hawaii Island - the staging area for the Pacific Theater.

Dad was one of the lucky few to survive the Battle of Iwo Jima. His unit landed on Red Beach via the Higgins Boats. Unfortunately, he carried such a vivid memories of terrible smoke and smells his entire life. He eluded death's grasp and only suffered had injuries including broken fingers and Shrapnel wounds all over his body, the metal remnants most of which he carried inside him the rest of his life. It wasn't until I was an adult in my late 50;s that one day, when dad was "in the mood", I learned of some of the battle and post-battle details.

One can imagine the stress, the horror, the loss. He told of his patrolling the Japanese caves to root out survivors. He was leading his squad into a particular cave, when he "felt" the hairs stand up on the back of his neck and hands. Despite this warning of danger, he proceeded further into the cave when he felt a "heavy hand" at his back pushing him and instinctively he "knew" to fall down on the cave's hard floor. As he was following he heard a click. A Japanese soldier had dad in his sights, but his Nambu pistol had misfired.

The Marine behind dad was able to disarm the soldier and neutralize the threat. Dad held onto that misfired bullet and gun the remainder of his life, forever thanking his brother Marine behind him and appreciating another close call.

After Iwo, Dad returned to Hawaii to prepare for a major assault invasion on the Japanese homeland. After the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs were dropped, Dad deployed from Hilo, Hawaii on a ship bound for Sasebo on the Island of Kyushu for what had become the Occupation Sasebo, the second largest city in Japan at that time, had naval station and was heavily fire bombed and demolished. On 22 Sept, the fifth Marine Division were the first Americans to occupy the post city and the 26th. Marines were given specific areas of responsibilities. Dad was ordered to the Mayor's house to make arrangements for the surrender and occupation. The V Amphibious Corps zone of occupation comprised the entire island of Kyushu and Yamaguchi Prefecture on the western tip of Honshu.

Dad was Assistant 3 Officer to coordinate the surrender and movement of troops out of that area onto Japanese vessels. The Japanese survivors had fled to the hills and the only Japanese that were first seen were those who surrendered to Lt.Col Pollock, dad's commanding officer. The Marines moved in the bulldozers to clear the roads and bomb debris. Dad's first night command post was in the railroad station. Dad took

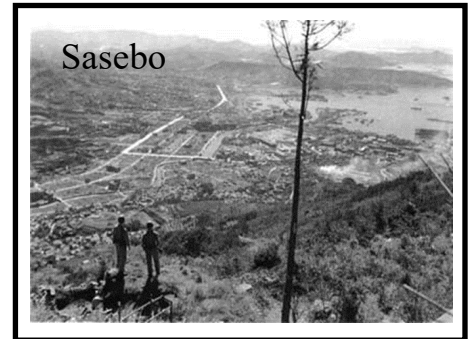
mountains to take the town of Aniura and remove the breechblock out of the protecting guns that were located there. The assault took 30 hours.

The Mayor of Sasebo had a royal grant to supply oil and coal to the city of Sasebo. The Mayor could speak some English and dad took a room in the Mayor's family residence during his assignment. Dad and the Mayor became well acquainted, talking about their respective lives, families, sharing family histories and cultures and cultivating understanding, tolerance and developing mutual appreciation.

It wasn't until just a couple of years before my father's passing that he told me he had visited Nagasaki after the bomb was dropped. I was surprised, concerned: "What about the radiation? What was the city like?" He said that they were under strict orders to stay away from near-by Nagasaki. However he wanted to see the city. So one night his best friend Hayward Faircloth and he "borrowed" a jeep and drove to the outskirts of what was left of the city. Far up high on the overlooking mountain and facing downwind, he could witness the sheer scope of the devastation. It was just indescribable. As far as the eye could see, NOTHING - RUBBLE.

From his post at Sasebo, the 26th Marine Regiment were ordered, combat ready, to forcibly take the Palau Islands where the Japanese 14th Division's Commander and troops had refused to surrender.

As the war situation had deteriorated against the Japanese, the Japanese government felt it was critical to hold the group against the numerically superior Allied Forces even if it meant defending the islands to the death. They did not know the Emperor surrendered and it was just inconceivable to them that Japan had failed



U.S. Army and Navy Officers went to the island of Koror under the flag of truce to take surrender but the Japanese commanding general said he didn't know what the US officers were talking about and as far as he was concerned they were still at war.

While doing final securing LtCol Pollock said "Menzies, I understand you can fly and you speak some Japanese. Good, we're flying me to Koror and meet LtGen Inoue to finalize the signing of the end of the war paper.

In 2010 our entire family visited the USMC Museum in Quantico, VA. We preceded through the WWII portion. You experience a full sensory on the landing of Iwo Jima. You're in a Higgins Boat with mist in your face, the rocking of the craft under your feet and hearing the bullets hitting the landing craft while viewing the island's beach getting larger. It is a very emotional experience and this immediately threw dad back to that day on Red Beach, as you can imagine. It took him a bit to regain his composure afterwards.



***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***



FINAL CALL



BAKER, IRVIN
1921-2019
IWO JIMA-USMC
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

BARNETT, DOUGLAS
1922-2014
IWO JIMA -USMC
San Diego, CA

BAUGHAN, JAMES
1925-2020
IWO JIMA - USMC
Salina, KS

BRENT, NIMEL
1925-2021
U.S. NAVY
Limon, CO

BENESH. ERNEST
1926-2019
IWO JIMA- USMC
Owatonna, MN

BREGGIA, THOMAS
1924-2020
IWO JIMA
Providence, RI

CURLEY, CHARLES
1926-2021
IWO JIMA-USMC
Palm Harbor, FL

DEGENNARO, JOHN J.
1926-2022
IWO JIMA - USMC
Altona, PA

DIMAUARO, CARMEL
1923-2022
IWO JIMA-USMC
Rockville, CT

FLYNN, KENNETH
1933-2010
USMC
Carlsbad, CA

GASCHE, ROBERT
1925-2019
IWO JIMA
Gainesville, IL

GASSERT, WAYNE
1921-2016
WWII, Korea-US NAVY
Myerstown, PA

GRAHAM, ED
1925-2021
IWO JIMa-USMC
Texas, TX

GREER, JO NAH
1924-2020
IWO JIMA - USMC
Ohio

HEISE, RAYMOND
1925-2021
IWO JIMA-USMC
Bellaire, MI

HIRNER, ALBERT
1926-2017
IWO JIMA-USMC
Yuba City, CA

INGEMI, MICHAEL
Canton, MA

MONTAG, DAVID
1920-2014
IWO JIMA, U.S. NAVY
Enchiltas, CA

NEY, GEORGE
1926-2020
IWO JIMA, U.S. NAVY
Salem,, NH

OFFERDAHL, MELVIN (Red)
1916-2016
Honolulu, Hi

PALIOKAS, MARTIN
1923-2021
U.S. NAVY
Leesburg, VA

PASEWARK, WILLIAM
1924-2021
IWO JIMA-USMC
Lubbock, Tx

PERPICH, CHARLES
1920-2020
IWO JIMA-USMC
West Fargo, MN

PILHOLSKI, LOU
-2007
IWO JIMA
Tulsa, OK

REE, LTCOL. JOHN
1935-2020
U.S. ARMY & AIR FORCE
Roanoke, VA

ROUSE, JACK
1933-2022
Lakeside, CA

RICHARDSON, MAURICE
IWO JIMA - USMC
Buzzard Bay, MA

ROUBAUD, ROBERT
1919-2020
USMC
WWII, Korean-U.S. Army
Hendersville, NC

SCHAEFER, WILLIAM
1925-2020
U.S. ARMY
WWII, Korea, Vietnam

SWITZER, NOAH
2026-2020
IWO JIMA-U.S. NAVY
Taylor Mill, KY

SHOWALTER, CARLOS
2019
Buchanan, VA

TREICHLER, DELBERT
1924-2021
IWO JIMA-USMC
Muskego, WI

WILKINSON, ROY
1924-2019
USMC
IWO JIMA, Korea, Vietnam
W. Middlebury, VT

WILSON, ELWYN (ED)
1925-2020
IWO JIMA
West Hills, CA

WHITE, WILLIAM
1915-2022
IWO JIMA-USMC
Huntington Beach, CA

SALVIE, RAYMOND
1925-2022
IWO JIMA - USMC
No. Syracuse, NY



**The IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
REUNION AND SYMPOSIUM
FEBRUARY 16 - 18, 2023
HILTON AIRPORT HOTEL CRYSTAL CITY
ARLINGTON, VA**

JOINT REUNION -

The Iwo Jima Association of America, the 5th Marine Division and elements of the 3rd and 4th Marine Division will meet jointly at the IJJA 2023 reunion in Arlington, VA

And to further ensure our commitment and collaborative effort ,will again meet in the first week of October, 2023 in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. More information to follow.

These joint events will help strengthen each organization and help maintain the legacy of our veterans and their families. It will also ensure the continued commemoration of their legacy and the public’s education to ensure “we never forget.”. Stay tuned to IJAA and 1st., 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions web sites.

Semper Fidelis,

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

Best Regards and Semper Fi,

**Captain Skip Werthmuller USN (Ret)
President
5th Marine Division Associations**



**MARK YOUR CALENDER
FEBRUARY 16 - 18, 2023**



**We look forward to seeing you
WASHINGTON (ARLINGTON) D.C.**

**IWO IMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
FEBRUARY 16-19, 2023
HILTON CRYSTAL CITY HOTEL
ARLINGTON, VA**

Thursday, February 16

1200	-	1800	Reunion Registration Open
1200	-	2200	Hospitality Room Open
1600	-	1800	Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, February 17

0730	-	0845	Reunion Registration Open
0900	-	1600	National Museum of the Army Wreath Laying Ceremony WII Memorial & Wreath Laying Ceremony at Marine Corps War Memorial
1000	-	2200	Hospitality Room Open

Saturday, February 18

0800	-	1530	Historical Symposium
1200	-	1300	Symposium Lunch with Guest Speaker
1300	-	1400	Veterans Panel Discussion
1800	-	1900	Reception with Cash Bar
1900	-	2130	Official Anniversary Banquet featuring Entertainment & Dancing by Radio King Orchestra

Sunday, February 19

Farewells and Departures

Register online or with enclosed registration form

www.events.afr-reg.com/e/IJAA2023

Cancellation and refund policy for Armed Forces Reunions, INC

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off-date, Armed Forces Reunions, INC. (AFR), shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15.00 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non refundable AFR registration fee (\$15.00). **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00 until 5:00 pm Eastern Standard time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities. Each must be cancelled separately.

Tear along perforation - pages 21-24

IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

National Museum of the Army

Friday, February 17, 2023

****** During the commemoration of the 78th Anniversary of the Battle for Iwo Jima and Pacific Islands, the Iwo Jima Association of America shall tour the newly opened National Museum of the Army, in commemoration of our US Army and US Army Air Force veterans who fought and died with Marines, Sailors, Sea Bees and Coast Guardsmen in the epic battles for the Pacific.

The National Museum of the United States Army is the first comprehensive museum to capture, display and interpret the Army's history through a number of comprehensive and fascinating galleries.

You may tour the museum at your own pace.

Lunch is on your own at the museum café.

****** Following the Museum tour, there will be a Wreath Laying ceremony at the USMC and World War II Memorials.

0900 board bus, 1600 back at the hotel
\$46.00/Person includes transportation and escort.

IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM 2023

Listed below is the registration cost for the Reunion and Symposium. Please enter how many people will be participating and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.events.afr-reg.com/e/IJAA2023. A 3.5% convenience fee will apply for all credit card payments. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **January 25, 2023**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: IJAA

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	New <input type="checkbox"/> Revision/Addition <input type="checkbox"/>

	Price Per	# of People	Total
CUT-OFF DATE IS 1/25/23			
Friday, 2/17: National Museum of the Army & Memorial Service & Wreath Laying at the USMC Memorial and WWI Memorial	\$46		
MEALS			
SATURDAY: SYMPOSIUM LUNCH – 1 Entrée Buffet	\$40		\$
SATURDAY: BANQUET (<i>Please select your entrée below</i>) – Includes Valet Parking for the Evening and 1 Drink Ticket			
Herb Marinated Flat Iron Steak	\$115		\$
Seared Free Range Chicken Breast	\$115		\$
Vegetarian Entree	\$115		
Fish Entree	\$115		
Registration for Iwo Jima Veterans ONLY	FREE	#	\$
Registration for spouses, family, guests and supporters	\$15		\$
Donation			\$
Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u>			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME

Note: Correct names and addresses are very important because of the prominent position of some of our guests. You will be required to go through metal detectors at the Museum.

FIRST _____ LAST _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____
(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES NO ARE YOU FLYING? DRIVING? RV?

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays)**. Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.
 You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.events.afr-reg.com/e/IJAA2023



2022 IWO JIMA REUNION FEBRUARY 16 - 18, 2023

HILTON Crystal City Hotel
at Washington Reagan Hotel
2399 Richmond Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

Hotel: 703-418-6800

Group name: -Iwo Jima Association of American

Reunion Dates: February 16 - 18, 2023

Reunion Rate: \$129.00 (Plus Tax) (Includes Breakfast for two.) Hotel wall honor room rate (if available), 3 days before and after actual reunion dates.

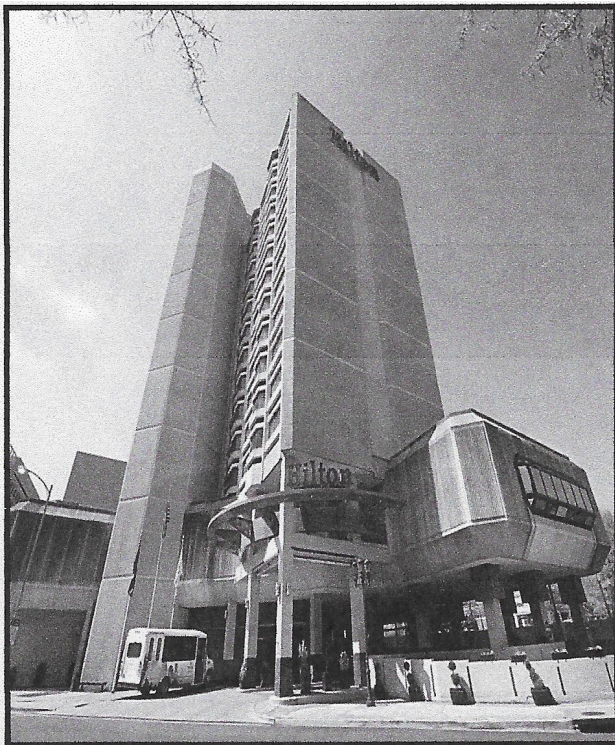
Cut-off date: 01/15/2023

Cancellation Policy: Must be 72 hours prior to arrival date or there will be a charge of one stay plus tax.

Parking at hotel: \$10.00 per day.

Shuttle Service: Available to/from Reagan Airport.

Wheel Chair Rental: Scoot Around Rentals- 888-441-7575 or online, www.scotaround.com for details.



NATIONAL MUSEUM UNITED STATES ARMY

FT BELVOIR

TOUR FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 17

WHAT YOU WILL SEE AND MORE:

CHANGING WORLD - COLD WAR

GLOBAL WAR - NATION OVERSEAS

PRESERVING THE NATION - MEDAL OF HONOR EXPERIENCE

FOUNDING THE NATION





WHAT IS A SYMPOSIUM

As we are fast approaching our annual reunion, you will read in this Black Sands publication the outline for the reunion: dates, tours, dinner and another highlight is the Saturday morning symposium.

Among the missions of the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) is the stated purposes including: “Promoting the historical and scholarly study of the Battle of Iwo Jima; and Educating veterans, descendants of veterans and the general public on the history of the Battle of Iwo Jima, the Battle’s place in history and the Battle’s context within World War II.”

The annual reunion has been a good opportunity to provide historical perspectives on the battle, decisions made by US and Japanese commanders leading up to and during the battle, and lessons learned by Pacific Campaign leaders that influenced subsequent military and political decisions.

IJAA has been fortunate to use the expertise of noted historians and authors like: LtCol Charles Neimeyer USMC (Ret) PhD, Col Dick Camp USMC (Ret), Mr. James Oelke-Farley, Mr. Dan King, former Japanese Defense Attaché, top military personnel and many others throughout the years.

As historical events are often seen differently by those who witnessed or participated in them, IJAA held a veteran’s forum at our 2022 Symposium with Iwo Jima Veterans talking about their personal experiences on the island. IJAA was fortunate at the 2022 event to have a group of high school students staying at the hotel, who were visiting Washington D.C. as part of their history studies. Following the veteran’s forum, the students swarmed the veterans, taking pictures and asking questions of the Iwo Vets. What a remarkable event, which has given symposium planners ideas for future sessions.

As Iwo Jima is often seen as the iconic battle of the WWII Pacific Campaign, much as D-Day is seen as the iconic event of the European Theater, look for more symposium topics to include discussion of pre and post-battle events, battles, and decisions made along with the historic context in which the Iwo Jima battle has shaped US interests and security arrangements throughout the Pacific.

It is a Saturday you won’t forget. You will hear an abundant amount of information including minute details that is fascinating. Besides reunion attendees, it is open up to the public BUT, they must call and register. A delicious lunch is prepared for all who attend. BUT it is important that all register. You can do that with the registration form included in this issue. If you have questions please call the number listed below.

You are welcomed to send any recommended topics or names of available authors or persons with first-hand knowledge or expertise to the IJAA office, attention: LtCol Sifuentes.

LtCol Sifuentes, IJAA Executive Director
703-212-8128

Andersonville Prison

Location:

Andersonville,
Georgia

AKA Camp Sumter



The prison was commonly known as Andersonville but the military official name was Camp Sumter, in honor of the county in which it was located. Construction of the prison began in early 1864 after the decision had been made to relocate Union prisoners to a more secure location. This decision was made because of the battles taking place near Richmond, Virginia where many prisoners were being held, and as a way to procure a greater food supply.

The prison site initially covered approximately 16 1/2 acres of land and enclosed by a fifteen foot high stockade wall. Shortly thereafter it was enlarged to 26 1/2 acres due to the increased number of prisoners. The “stockade” was constructed in the shape of a parallelogram that was 1,620 feet long and 779 feet wide. Approximately 19 feet inside of the stockade wall the “deadline”, which the prisoners were not allowed to cross. If one did, the guards in the “pigeon roost,” which were roughly thirty yards were allowed to shoot them.

The first prisoners arrived in late February 1864. Over 400 prisoners arrived daily to one of the houses that held 10,000. August 1864 33,000 prisoners were housed there. During the first fourteen months of its opening, 45,000 Union soldiers were imprisoned there, and nearly 13,000 died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding, or exposure. The Confederate government was unable to provide the prisoners with adequate housing, food, clothing nor medical care.

When General William T. Sherman’s Union forces occupied Atlanta on September 2, 1864, moving Federal cavalry columns with easy striking distance of Andersonville, the Confederate Army moved most of the prisoners to other camps in South Carolina and coastal Georgia.

Continued next page

Andersonville Prison

When General Henry Wirz, the stockade commander, was arrested and charged with “murder, in violations of the law “ he was tried and found guilty by a military tribunal, Wirz was hanged in Washington, D.C. on November 10, 1865. A monument to Wirz, erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, stands today in the Town of Andersonville.

Andersonville prison ceased operation in May 1865. Most former prisoners returned to their prewar occupations. In July and August 1865, a expedition of laborers and soldiers, accompanied by a former prisoner named Dorence Atwater and Clara Barton, came to Andersonville to identify and mark the graves of the Union dead and transform the place into the Andersonville National Cemetery. As a paroled prisoner, Atwater was assigned to record the names of deceased Union soldiers, fearing loss of the death records at war’s end. Atwater made his own copy in hopes of notifying the relatives of some 12,000 dead interred here. Thanks to his list and the Confederates records confiscated at the end of the war, only 460 of the Andersonville graves had to be marked “unknown U.S soldier.”

In December 1890 the prison was purchased by the Georgia Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Union veterans organization. Unable to finance improvements needed to protect the property, this group sold it for one dollar to the Woman’s Relief Corps (WRV), the national auxiliary of the GAR. The WRC made many improvements to the area with the idea of creating a memorial park and erecting commemorative monuments. They built the Providence Spring House in 1901 to mark the site where on August 9, 1864, a spring burst forth during a heavy rainstorm, an occurrence many prisoners attributed to divine providence. The fountain bowl in the Spring House was purchased later through funds raised by former Andersonville prisoners.

In 1910 the Woman’s Relief Corps donated the prison site to the people of the United States. It was administered by the War Department and its successor, The Department of the Army, until its designation as a national historic site by Congress in October 1870.



3A Frightening Mission Over Iwo Jima, 1945

By Robert L. Stone

Lieutenant Bob Stone served as a Bombardier in the 432st. Bomb Squadron (Heavy), 7th United States Army Air Force in the Pacific.

Soldiers rarely describe the details of battles in letters. During World War II, the discussion of events was prohibited by the military and censors were quick to remove anything they considered a risk to the safety and security of the troops. In addition, putting frightening details of war into writing would only worry loved ones at home.

In February 1945 Bob Stone wrote to his parents on his way back to duty from leave in Hawaii. In this lengthy letter, he only briefly mentions a mission on which all of us were pretty badly scared. It is also apparent that while he was able to call his parents while on leave, he chose not to tell them details of that mission.



Dear Mom & Dad,

I hardly know where to begin, what with all that's happened since I last wrote. We never expected to be up on rest leave so soon, but one night we landed from a mission and were told to be ready to leave the next morning. Needless to say, we wasted no time in packing and making ready to go. Actually, our rest came at a very opportune moment because our next to last mission was a real rough one and all of us were pretty badly scared. We were all too jumpy to fly for awhile so a rest leave was quite welcomed. Incidentally, we now have twenty-two missions to our credit which leaves us eighteen to go. It's been a long nerve-racking pull, and we've still got a lot in front of us. At least we've gotten over the half way mark, none the worse for it (considering everything).

Continued next page

Bombardier in the 432st. Bomb Squadron (Heavy), 7th United States Army

Arranged for a couple of phone calls which always involve red tape, censorship, and lots of time. I can't tell you how good it was to talk to you and hear your voices again. Trans-pacific calls are always a real thrill for me – a treat that I'd like to enjoy more often.

We had just bombed Iwo Jima and were leaving the target, which was 6 hours away from our base on Guam when several Japanese planes called Zeros attacked us. Although we fought them off, we took a number of hits, as well as some hits from the thick flak we encountered when we flew over the island to drop our bombs. After a while flying back towards Guam, one of our four engines sputtered and stopped running. The pilot "feathered" this engine, which means that he turned the propeller blades sideways so that they would cut through the air rather than being a total drag. A loaded B-24 cannot take off with only two working engines, but once in the air it can fly with only three engines operating, the plane was flying much slower and was beginning to lose altitude, which made us consume more gasoline. All of a sudden there was total silence

We found out that in transferring fuel from the non-working engine to the working ones, an air lock developed which momentarily stopped the plane's engines, (our load was incredibly heavy), eight very heavy 50 millimeter guns, ten very heavy Flak jackets (used for body protection). Also, a great many boxes of unused 40-millimeter shells were deep sixed. There may have been more items that I don't recall any longer except the Norden Bomb Sight was jettisoned (which was incredibly heavy). The bombsight was top-secret equipment and very expensive, and very difficult to replace because it enabled the pilot to transfer the control of the plane to the bombardier who could then zero in on the targets more accurately. The reduction of all this weight helped us maintain altitude and at the same time use less gas. We continued along for about another hour or so hoping we would not lose altitude and not use up all our gas before we got to base. We also hoped that our three engines would continue to operate until we landed safely.

At this point, we decided to head to Saipan rather than our home base of Guam. With

THE SILENCE WAS DEVASTATION AND EERIE!!!

when all three engines stopped.

The Silence was devastating and eerie. We were all in a state of panic wondering what had happened and if the end was near----it seemed inevitable! After what seemed like a long time, but probably was only a couple of minutes, the engines caught hold and we were once again on our way to our base.

only two working engines-happily one on each wing. Now our big worry was whether we had sufficient gas to get to Saipan and rather than our home base of Guam. With less than two hours left to reach Saipan, another engine conked out and had to be "feathered" leaving us with only two working engines-happily one on each wing.

Now our big worry was whether we had sufficient gas to get to Saipan and whether we could maintain enough altitude to make a landing when we got there.

Continued next page

FRIGHTENING MISSION OVER IWO JIMA,

Also, it was lucky nothing else we could do except to hope that Saint Francis and Saint Christopher would guide us.

It was an enormous relief when we saw the lights of Saipan. We started our final approach and descended the runway from a much lower altitude than normal. When the wheels hit the runway, we started to roll but only got half-way down the runway when the other two engines stopped because we had completely run out of gas. This was a miracle because if we went 100 feet to reach the runway *we* would have gone into the water.

When the crew left the airplane, we all kissed the ground because we had been so fortunate in making it back safely to terra firma!!!! The flying Jenny was hauled away and never flew again because its engines and the body of the plane had been so badly damaged it was not worth repairing.

On June 5, 1941, Bob Stone was awarded the Distinguished Flying cross for this mission. Not only did the crew survive an incredible ordeal, they successfully dropped 10 percent of their bombs on target.



You Are Important

The mission of IJAA is to always remember those that served on Iwo Jima and the Pacific, as well as preserve this history thru educational programs, specifically aimed toward the younger population. We also pay for the Iwo Jima veterans who attend the national reunion and/or trip to Iwo Jima in the spring of each year. We cannot forget. Please honor our veterans and especially your family member or a friend by becoming a member. We would be honored by your membership.

Greetings to all,

The two greatest times in my life was my 20 years in the USMC and my 16 years with the American Battle Monuments Commission. I was reminded that there is no greater love than someone who is willing to lay down their life for a friend, the men and women resting under a Latin Cross or a Star of David-might not have served for that reason but in the end they gave the greatest sacrifice of all.

While I served, those men and women forever on duty, resting at these American Cemeteries, I was reminded that if no one visits their day of duty, they will not go unnoticed.

So I want to thank you for your efforts in bringing people to their battlefield where they and the American Cemetery where they are on duty forever resting.

God Bless.

Master Sergeant Michael Green, USMC (Ret)
Superintendent, American Battle Monuments Commission ,Retired

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 |
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Unit served with on Iwo Jima & Dates

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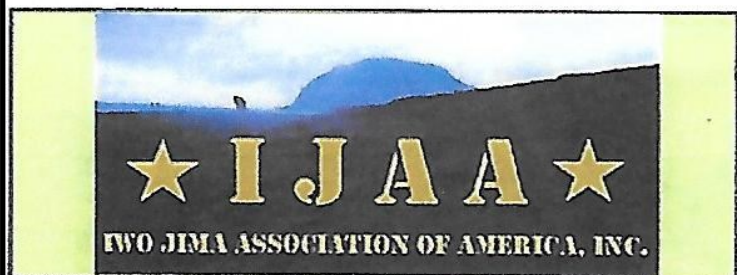
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Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc
P.O. Box 680 Quantico, VA 22134
Phone: 703-212-8128 Fax: 703-590-1292
e-mail: Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org
website: www.IwoJimaAssociation.org
A 501(c) (3) veterans organization



HELP ME, I'M LOST

Following our last mailing of Black Sands, over 50 publications were returned to us with a stamped note, "Unable to be delivered".

We researched and researched and found a number of those returned had moved and/or were deceased.

We ask you to please notify us of address change or instruct your family if any changes on your end occur. Please notify IJAA .

Besides the cost of printing each issue of Black Sands, we incur an additional Post Office fee for each one returned. As you know this all adds up and takes away serving our veterans.

We appreciate your support in helping resolve this concern.

CONTACT IJAA

703-212-8128

In March of 2023, with the time coinciding with the end of the Iwo Jima battle, IJAA traditionally hosts a tour to the Island Iwo Jima beginning with a four-day tour of the



ON TO GUAM AND THE ISLAND OF IWO JIMA

battlefields on Guam. Once again we host an educational symposium and banquet. On the 5th. Day we board chartered United Airlines 737's for a day trip to the Island where our veterans and their companions are transported to Japanese-American Reunion of Honor Memorial Service on the Island and then transported to the top of Mt Suribachi. IJAA, through membership and fund raising trip assist Iwo Jima veterans who may need assistance to pay for trip. Check out IJAA websitewww.iwojimaassociation.org or rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org or call 703-963-6895 .



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Billstein, Robert
Campbell, Henry
Campbell, Mr. & Mrs Charles
Clark, David
Clay, Peter
Cooke, Alredo
Coons, Jared

Couett, William
Coughlin, Warren
Dean, Diane
Fetterman, Phillip
Frankel, Mr & Mrs Stuart
Gleason, Chris
Hackworth, Jim

Huffhines, Tom
Jones Jr., Joel
Khalsa, Adarsh
Lee, Darol
Liegeoi, John
Kohler, Mr & Mrs Kevin
Nimrod, Clark

Phillips, Tracy
Romano, Angelo
Ryan, Stephen
Scull, Karen
Steber, Jerome
VonDerahe, Michael



DONORS-INDIVIDUALS



DONORS- BUSINESS

Austin, Philip
Aydelotte, William
Bourgalt, Louis
Butler, John
Cavett, Clinton
Chippo, Sherri & David
Day, Charles
Donaldson, William
Downs, BrigGen Michael
Estee, Stephen
Ewers, Maj Gen John
Fields, David
Fields, Thomas & Linda
Fromme, Donald
Fuente, Charles
Fuertsch, Charles
Fuller, John V.
Galina, Charles
Gallina, Charles
Gatewood, Ron
Griffin, Laura
Hawthorne Handall,
Heenan, David

Jacquier, Charles
Janicki, Donald
Leppert, Laura
Mandeville, Mary
Mates, Donald
Meny, Douglas
Miller, Jeff (in honor of Larry Miller)
Mitchell, Thomas
Molter- Deck, Frances
Nalls, Art
Nyland, Gen William
Pawlowski, Glen
Phillips, Duane
Rev. Ralph Mussehl Living Trust
Rannals USMC (Ret), LtCol Larry
Rauer, M.A.
Schey, William
Scott, David
Scott, Robert
Smith, Harry
Smith, LtGen Norman
Smith, Mary Helen
Spiller, Steve
Stenner, Col Peter
Swenson, Clifford
Wickersham, Col Frank
Wiedhahn, Col Warren

Aviation Facilities Co
Battlefield Toyota
Capital Group Fitzpatrick
Edward Jones
FORTEM
Hamilton Ins Co
Improbable US
K&M Lawn Garden
Mission BBQ
Potomac Advocates
Potomac Institute
Proteus Capitol
Royal Order of the Moose
Sheetz
Sons of Dog Cos
Terra Concepts
The Benevity Community Impact
Fund
Tiger Country Realty
Warrenton-Fauquier Airport
WAYPOINT
Wells Fargo Advisors
Young, Oakes, Brown CPA

We say thank you for supporting the mission of IJAA.

WELCOME TO SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK

A 51Acre Memorial Park dedicated to all Veterans Who Have Served Past- Present- Future

Memorial Park is a 51-acre park which has some very awesome features including a one-third mile walk from the entrance to the rear of the 2000-seat Millennium Amphitheater. This walk is also referred to as **Avenue of Heroes**, which is a unique tribute to the veterans of various wars and conflicts. More than 20 monuments are stationed along this walk ranging from the Revolutionary War through the General's Overlook. It features a **500-year "walk"** through time beginning when Arcadia was first settled in 1854. One of the newest attention-getting memorials in the park is the War on Terrorism. It features twisted steel from one of the World Trade Center from the 9-11-2001 tragedy. There are two monuments to family farming. War years are represented with planters that house many beautiful floral arrangements.

Small Town American Story - Arcadia, Wisconsin

You will find this city of 3,052 citizens – an increase of 107 since 2010 - living in a 3.3 square mile. It is nestled in northwest corner of Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. It's known for its breath-taking surroundings and unique attractions. It's considered one of the best hunting, fishing, camping and canoeing areas and eight municipal parks and most of all the kind, good will citizens, always displaying their love of their Country.

This thriving city is also an economic hub with abundant opportunities for job-seekers and entrepreneurs. Arcadia also boasts seven international companies and many more large and small businesses. Employment is everywhere with above minimum wage job opportunities for all skills and most trades. The Mississippi River is only an hour away.

But our story today is about the true spirit and love of America that is on full display in this small or should we say tiny town. It is their **SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK**. The story is unique.



General George Washington will greet you as you enter the park.





WAR OF 1812



CIVIL WAR
APRIL 12, 1861 — APRIL 9, 1865
1861



WORLD WAR I
THE WAR THAT WAS TO END ALL WARS
THE WORLD
JUNE 28, 1914 — JUNE 28, 1919
1914



The M48 Patton Tank

11,703 M48's were made between 1952-1959
Speeds to 30 MPH. Originally gasoline powered, converted to diesel in 1968-1969

M48 carried a 90mm turret-mounted main gun, capable of rotating to fire in any direction, as well as one 7.62 mm machine gun, and one .50 caliber machine gun

Above the main gun was a 1 million candlepower Xenon searchlight. It was bore sighted with the main gun and gun sights so that it could be used to illuminate a target at night



Until well into the 19th century, western armies recruited young boys to act as drummers. Although there were usually official age limits, these were often ignored; the youngest boys, some as young as 9-12 years of age were not uncommon. Many were sometimes treated as mascots by the adult soldiers. The life of a drummer boy appeared rather glamorous and as a result, boys would sometimes run away from home to enlist. The drums were an important part of the communications system, with various drum rolls used to signal different commands from officers to troops. In the noise and confusion of battle, it was often impossible to hear the officers' orders, so each order was given a series of drumbeats to represent it. Both soldiers and drummers had to learn which drum roll meant "meet here" and which meant "attack now" and which meant "retreat" and all the other commands of battlefield and camp.



FAMILY BIDDING FAREWELL TO LOVED ONE.



**9/11 WAR ON TERRIOSM MEMORIAL
LEFT SIDE: MELTED STEEL BEAM FROM THE
WORLD TRADE CENTER.**



Fifty years ago Arcadia was awakened from a dream of wilderness, by a party of 3 pioneers who came from far and wide to seek homes in the Valley of Trempealeau along with a herd of 15 cattle.



Off to the left of the Millennial Amphitheater, there stands a memorial to Ronald G Wanek. This memorial was designed and placed in the memorial park by his son Todd Wanek, President & CEO of Ashley furniture industries, Ashley employees, friends and the city of Arcadia Wisconsin. The statue honors Ron, who had the vision to create the Memorial Park as well as his philanthropy, being a leading industrialists and needless to say his dedication to the history of the United States. His driving force and the commitment of Arcadia's military organizations and citizens of the city brought his vision to fruition.



Ronald Wanek



Todd Wanek

Wanek grew up poor on a dairy farm in Minnesota, where his grandfather and great uncle built furniture as a hobby. He started his first furniture manufacturing business, Arcadia Furniture, in 1970 with a loan from his father and money he got from selling his home. Six years later he bought retailer Ashley Furniture, which had been around since the 1940. Wanek and his wife Joyce started the Ronald & Joyce Wanek Foundation. The foundation donates to causes including children and families charities, medical research, education, arts and U.S. armed forces. He states his hobby is work. Thank you Mr. Wanek and the city of Arcadia for your beautiful Soldiers Memorial Park which memorializes our great country and all those who have served.



Statue depicting father of Ron Wanek out on his farm.

IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (IJAA) MERCHANDISE



PATRIOTIC FLASKS



VIETNAM POCKET WATCH



IWO JIMA POCKET WATCH



PEWTER STATUE



LAPEL PIN



**GIFT BOX
W/ BLACK SAND**



IWO JIMA KNIFE

IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (IJAA) MERCHANDISE



**IJAA
Polo Shirt
Men's /
Women's
P/S/M/L/XL
Colors:
White/Red/
Green/Blue**



**IJAA
Long Sleeved
Men's / Women's
S/M/L/XL/XXY
Colors:
Blue**



Black, Green, Gray, Red
White

CAPS



**75TH
Anniversary
Polo Shirt
Men's Sizes:
S/M/L/XL/XXL
Women's Sizes
P/S/M/L/XL
Color: Black**



**IJAA BRACELET
w/Black Sand**



STICKERS



CHALLENGE COIN - TWO SIDED



PATCH



CHALLENGE COIN - TWO SIDED

ORDER FORM

Please complete order form (if using check attach to order form payable to: IJAA.

Mail to:

Iwo Jima Association of America,

P.O. Box 680

Quantico, VA 22134

SUB TOTAL from page 44

\$ _____

\$8.00 For Shipping \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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Please complete in full if paying by credit card.

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

MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>OPTIONS</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
IWO JIMA BRACELET	Quantity: _____	X \$45.00 = _____
75th ANNIVERSARY POLO SHIRT		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		
IWO JIMA BLUE SHIRT		
w/Long Sleeves		
Men's Sizes: S/M/L/XL/XXL	Quantity: _____ Size _____	X \$45.00 = _____
Women's Sizes: P/S/M/L/XL	Quantity: _____ Size _____	X \$45.00 = _____
IJAA POLO SHIRT		
Colars: White/Red/Green/Blue		
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	Size: _____ Color: _____	
Women's Sizes: P/S/M/L/XL	Quantity: _____	X \$45.00 = _____
	Size: _____ Color: _____	
CHALLENGE COIN		
75TH Anniversary Coin	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
Iwo Jima	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
IWO JIMA BRACELET	Quantity: _____	X \$10.00 = _____
STICKER	Quantity: _____	X \$3.00 = _____
PATCH	Quantity: _____	X \$3.00 = _____
CAPS		
White-Blue-Green-Rd-Gray-75th	Quantity: _____ Color _____	X 15.00 = _____
IJAA PATRIOTIC FLASKS		
IJAA	Quantity: _____	X \$30.00 = _____
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Iwo Jima	Quantity: _____	X \$10,00 = _____
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IWO JIMA KNIFE	Quantity: _____	X \$40.00 = _____
GIFT BOX w/Black Sand	Quantity: _____	X \$25.00 = _____

TOTAL =

IJAA THANKS YOU