

In Memoriam
Lieutenant General Norman H. Smith
United States Marine Corps (Retired)
1933-2024

Lieutenant General Norman Smith joined Iwo Jima Association of America in 2013, first serving as President/CEO and then as Chairman, Board of Directors. Sadly, he passed away on June 27, 2024. He left a legacy of recognizing and honoring those who participated in the battle of Iwo Jima and other battles in the WWII Pacific Campaign. Speaking at events annually, he paid tribute to their heroism and determination against all odds in service to their nation. He also helped to build a strong bond between Japan and the United States. He spoke annually at the US-Japan Joint Reunion of Honor on the former island of Iwo Jima. This is the only international ceremony where former adversaries come together to honor the sacrifices of all who participated in the battle. He addressed the Japanese and US dignitaries, veterans of the Battle of Iwo Jima and other WW II Pacific campaign battles, and bereaved and legacy family members from both nations in attendance. He spoke of the sacrifices on both sides, the horror of war, and most importantly, the peace and prosperity both nations have attained since those dark days. The warmth shared between all in attendance was always evident and inspiring. His efforts to build a strong partnership between the two nations have been recognized by US and Japanese leaders alike.



General Smith worked tirelessly raising funds for IJAA to provide trips for Iwo Jima Veterans back to the island, accommodations for Iwo Jima Veterans in need to travel and attend the annual reunions, and educational programs across the nation to inform Americans of the heroism displayed by those who participated in the battle of Iwo Jima. He guided, supported, and assisted the IJAA Board of Directors, the staff and our many volunteers in promoting IJAA programs and assistance to the Iwo Jima Veterans and their families. He will be missed. Rest in peace warrior.