



# Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**61ST ANNUAL REUNION - BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI  
OCTOBER 18 - 21, 2010  
IMPERIAL PALACE HOTEL & CASINO**

## Japanese lawmaker thanks vet for relic's return

**By Pat McTaggart**

ELKADER, IOWA — In 1943, 17-year-old Robert Buckner joined the U.S. Marine Corps. Two years later, Buckner was involved in the bloody campaign to take the island of Iwo Jima, capturing vital airstrips that gave damaged bombers returning from raids on Japan a much-needed place to land.

When the war ended, Buckner was part of the occupation forces on Kuyushu, the southernmost island of Japan.

"We were stationed just outside of Kumamoto, which was a large city that was also the capital of the region," Buckner said.

In early 1946, Buckner and some other Marines went into a small peasant village located on the outskirts of the city. It was basically a feudal village, formerly owned by a landowner who controlled what the villagers could grow and how much they would receive for their efforts.

"I saw a Japanese flag by a hut," he recalled. "A Japanese woman was standing next to the hut, and I asked her if I could buy the flag. She obviously didn't understand me, and from Japanese propoganda during the war, she probably thought we were some kind of monsters."

Through a series of gestures, Buckner was able to get the flag for a carton of cigarettes.

"I realize now that she was really intimidated by us," he said.

Returning to the United States, Buckner settled down, got married and continued his education. Like millions of other World War II veterans, he just wanted to get on with his life. The Japanese flag was put in a box, half forgotten, for several years.

Buckner eventually became superintendent of the Central Community School District in Elkader. During his tenure as superintendent,



**Mizuo Fukushima, leader of Japan's Social Democratic Party, displays the flag depicting her family's history that was returned in 2009 by Marine veteran Robert Buckner.**

*Continued on page 5*



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**SPEARHEAD NEWS**

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**Fifth Marine Division Association**

**REUNION**

**Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino  
Biloxi, Mississippi  
Oct. 18-21, 2010**

[www.ipbiloxi.com](http://www.ipbiloxi.com)

850 Bayview Avenue  
Biloxi, MS 39530-1701  
(228) 436-3000

Nightly room rates are \$79 plus tax.

Look for registration form  
in next issue of *Spearhead News*.

**ITINERARY**

**Sunday, Oct. 17**

Early arrivals

**Monday, Oct. 18**

Registration in Hotel Lobby entrance  
Hospitality Room, 1-10 p.m.

**Tuesday, Oct. 19**

Registration in Hotel Lobby, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Trip to New Orleans for D-Day Museum

**Wednesday, Oct. 20**

Registration 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.  
Shrimping trip, 10 a.m. only  
Shrimping trip, half-day

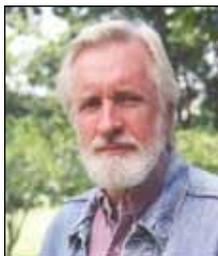
**Thursday, Oct. 21**

General Meeting 9 a.m.  
Ship Island voyage, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Trip to Hattiesburg  
and Camp Shelby Museum  
Dinner 6 p.m.

Fifth Marine Division Association President Leonard Nederveld has made arrangements at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino for a planning meeting at the hotel on March 20. Some 65 Association members live in the area and have been invited to the meeting. A small luncheon will be served at no charge to those attending. Questions? Contact Leonard Nederveld at 993 Kiahana Street, Diamondhead, MS 39525 or call (228) 255-5732.

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



### A 'big hurrah' for Iwo vets

ARLINGTON, VA — Riding down the hotel elevator one evening at the 65th Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium (Feb. 18-21), I heard two grizzled Marine Iwo Jima veterans talking about the event and what it meant to them.

“Can you believe it’s been 65 years since we landed on that damn island?” one of them asked. “We were just kids.”

“Yeah, and when we were growing up, the Civil War veterans were still around,” the other one said. “Same age as we are now. Can you believe that?”

They laughed, obviously enjoying themselves and the moment. Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret.) president and CEO of the Marine Heritage Foundation, had told me earlier that they wanted “to give these men one last big hurrah.”

And that’s what happened as more than 500 Iwo Jima veterans, their families and other guests attended the event sponsored by the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) founded by Maj. Gen. Fred Haynes, USMC (Ret.), and chaired by Lt. Gen. Larry Snowden, USMC (Ret.) both veterans of Iwo Jima. Planning for the event included members of the IJAA, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, The Marine Corps Memorial Foundation, Military Historical Tours (MHT), the Sheraton National Hotel and the Reunion Planning Committee, chaired by Col. Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret.), president and CEO of MHT.

The Sheraton Hotel made rooms available for \$79 a night, plus tax, and FedEx, founded by current CEO and Marine Vietnam veteran Fred Smith, was the primary sponsor that made the “big hurrah” possible for a \$40 registration fee. Included was the initial hospitality suite provided by the hotel upon arrival, a day-long symposium with a panel of Iwo Jima veterans and military historians, two lunches, a banquet meal and two bus trips to the National Museum of the Marine Corps near Quantico for the official anniversary commemoration of Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, and then to the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony

and back to the museum on Saturday for the official anniversary banquet.

Among the invited guests and speakers were Col. Harvey Barnum, USMC (Ret.), and Medal of Honor recipient in Vietnam, Gen. Walter Boomer, USMC (Ret.), chairman of the board of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, Lt. Gen. Snowden, Gen. James Conway, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Jones Jr., USMC (Ret.) former Commandant of the Marine Corps and current national security adviser to the president, Gen. James Amos, USMC, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, and more generals and colonels in the audience than I’ve ever seen in one place or at one time.

But this event was about and for Iwo Jima veterans. Every speaker paid homage to these men, whose ranks are thinning rapidly. Of the 525 registered guests, fewer than 150 were Iwo Jima veterans. Among them were three battalion commanders, Col. Richard Rothwell (97), Col. Shelton Scales (94) and Col. Gerald Russell (93), all retired from careers in the Marine Corps.

From the Richard L. Pittman Marine Corps League #1231 to which I belong, six of us accompanied Jim Kelly (88) who was with the 5th Service Battalion on Iwo Jima for the duration. Pittman was Kelly’s high school friend who was killed at the foot of Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 21. When he was informed of his friend’s death, Kelly made a trip to graves registration to say farewell.

Kelly has been going to these reunions for years and has yet to run into anyone with whom he served. Like Kelly, men scan the veterans for those with whom they served. Walt O’Malley and Fifth Marine Division Association President Leonard Nederveld, both with E/2/27, are ones who have kept in touch with other members of their company and attended reunions together. This year it was just the two of them, though.

Russell, who attended with his daughter Maureen, landed as the executive officer of 2/27 and became battalion commander when Lt. Col. John Antonelli was wounded and evacuated. Like Maureen, scores of sons and daughters and family members attended the event with their fathers or came in memory of them.

John Butler, son of Lt. Col. John Butler, battalion commander of 1/27 who was killed on Iwo Jima; Kevin Jarvis, another son of an Iwo Jima veteran; and Diane Kuebler, daughter of an Iwo Jima Seabee veteran, “hosted a family night meeting to discuss the role and importance of children and grandchildren of Iwo Jima veterans in fostering the legacy of (their) fathers and Iwo Jima into the future.”

Among those interested in keeping the IJAA going and maintaining that legacy, Yvonne Murphy, daughter of

*Continued on page 9*

## Stories evoke 'poignant moments'

Congratulations on another fine issue. I received it in today's mail and immediately read the entire contents. Your (Kent) Stegner tale and Paul Merriman's talk at the reunion were well-written and brought back many poignant moments of that battle. As an assault demolition engineer assigned to 3/26, our paths did not cross on the Island, to my knowledge, but at reunions that followed we may have met.

I was particularly intrigued when (Paul) mentioned Rabbi (Roland B.) Gittlesohn's dedication speech. I have passed out copies or referred to it hundreds of times since 1945 because he expressed meaningful words to each and every one of us.

Due to my wife's passing and surgery, I have not obtained the 2007 and 2009 Reunion Journals. If there were any copies left, would I be able to purchase one of each? Thanks for your help.

Keep up the great work, until we meet again. Semper Fidelis!

— Don Pero  
Editor of ECHOES (A Co. 5th Engr)  
Rochester, NY  
[pennydon@frontiernet.net](mailto:pennydon@frontiernet.net)

**Editor's Note:** Please contact Don if you know of anyone who has copies of the 2007 and 2009 Reunion Journals.

## Truly a season to give thanks

I met Dave Kliewer 60 years ago at Harvard Medical School, and we were friends till he died two years ago. Every Christmas, I think of his Christmas in 1941 on Wake Island where he had just been captured by Japanese soldiers who had overrun his position defending the beach, and his Christmas of 1942, '43 and '44, which he spent in prison in Japan. Although he lost about 50 pounds and acquired tuberculosis, he survived, finished his pre-med course at Oregon State and entered medical school a year after his release.

We practiced together at the Corvallis Clinic, and he was physician to my family. About 30 years ago, I gave him a box of Japanese Mandarin oranges as a Christmas gift. He told me that they had special meaning for him. Late in the war, with Japan blockaded and near starvation, the POWs, who were at the very end of the food chain, were in dire straits. The International Red

Cross sent him a box of Mandarin oranges. The other POWs asked Dave to divide them up equally, so that each prisoner had a few segments. He saved the orange peels, shredded them, divided up the fragments, and each prisoner used them to sprinkle on his food, a few shreds at a time, till they were gone.

Every Christmas I visualize this scene in the cold, snowy mountains of Honshu in the barbed-wire stockade. And I give thanks.

— Craig Leman  
H/3/26  
Corvallis, OR

## Impressed by memorial talk

As always, I enjoyed receiving *The Spearhead News*. I was impressed with Paul Merriman's memorial talk and would like to drop him a note. Please send his address.

My husband (James "Jim" H. Nickel) was with F/2/26 and was a proud Marine and felt privileged to serve his country.

— Betty Nickel  
Victoria, TX

**Editor's Note:** Mrs. Nickel said in a phone call that her husband, who died in 2002, spent 18 months in the hospital after the Iwo Jima Campaign.

## Spearhead News helps keep Association together

Thanks (for posting *The Spearhead News* electronically). It looks great on this computer — very clear. Boy, you sure do a big and wonderful job with *The Spearhead*. So many truly pertinent and well-expressed articles. Your work is becoming the glue holding the Association together — colored pictures?

Thank you for including me. I'm sure you could tell I was inspired and honored to do the (memorial) talk at the reunion in Houston.

We have seven children. I would like to buy some extra copies for my kids to see.

— Paul M. Merriman  
F/2/28  
Houston, TX

**Editor's Note:** Anyone wishing to receive *The Spearhead News* electronically can send their preferred e-mail address to [talespress@talespress.com](mailto:talespress@talespress.com).

## RELIC'S RETURN

*Continued from page 1*

he learned more about his souvenir.

“About 25 years ago, a group of Japanese visited out school,” he recalled. “I showed them the flag I had, and I was told that the writing on it appeared to be a family history record, which was apparently common in Imperial Japan.”

Buckner occasionally found a use for the flag when he would speak to history classes about the war, using the flag as a visual aid. For the most part, however, it remained stowed away in a box in the upstairs of his home.

Beginning a few years ago, the Marine veteran began seeing articles in various publications concerning veterans returning war souvenirs to the relatives of their former enemies.

“I saw that some were returning flags, if the relatives could be found,” he said. “I remembered what the Japanese tourists had said about the flag and the family history that was recorded on it, so I decided to see if the family could be found.”

It was a highly doubtful shot, since Buckner did not know the name of the village where he got the flag, and the city of Kumamoto had grown to a population of 670,000.

Last June 5 (2009), Buckner packaged up the flag and sent it to the mayor of Kumamoto.

“I sent a letter along with the package, asking the mayor if he would help find the family,” Buckner said. “I realized chances were slim, but I thought it would be worth the effort.”

The task was literally like looking for a needle in a haystack. The needle, however, was a very large one.

On Aug. 5, Buckner received a letter from Mizuo Fukushima, the granddaughter of the woman Buckner had bought the flag from. As it turned out, the mayor of Kumamoto knew exactly what family owned the flag because Fukushima was the leader of Japan's Social Democratic Party and a member of the House of Councilors, the upper house of Japan's Diet (congress).

The flag belonged to her father, who was 12 years old when Buckner and his comrades visited the village in 1946. Although her father had died in December 2008, Fukushima said her family was grateful to receive the relic from the past.

“My mother is very pleased to see the flag,” she wrote to Buckner. “I was moved by the strange stroke of fate. The flag revealed a trace of history and

untold fact of my family. The flag will be a precious commemorative.

“My father has died, and that fact makes me think deeper about the facts and thoughts of the people who wrote down names and messages (on the flag) then. Please take good care of yourself.”

Buckner was pleased that his gesture brought such good results.

“Thinking about it, it's really amazing that in two generations a woman from that small peasant village could rise to become a leader of a political party in Japan,” he said. “It shows how far they progressed, going from a near-feudal system to a thriving democracy in a little over 60 years.

“Getting the flag back to the family gives some closure to things. I'm just happy it found its way back home.”



***Editor's note:** Robert D. Buckner, a retired Iowa school superintendent, shared this news story about the flag he had brought home from the Occupation of Japan and had recently returned to the granddaughter of the woman from whom he had bought the flag for a carton of cigarettes. The story was published in the Dubuque Telegraph Herald and other Iowa newspapers. He also sent the photo of the granddaughter holding the flag and the English translation of a story that was published on Aug. 8, 2009, in Asahi Shimbun, Tokyo's largest newspaper and the world's largest newspaper, with a daily circulation of 12 million.*

*Buckner was in E/2/26 on Iwo Jima and the Occupation of Japan. When the 26th Marines was broken up, he was transferred to E/2/28 for a few weeks before being transferred to HQ 2/8 at Kumamoto where he spent seven months before being discharged.*

*The story, he believes, is rather amazing as it shows how the family arose from a small peasant village to leadership of the Social Democratic Party in Japan. Buckner (dbuckner@alpinecom.net) lives in Elkader, Iowa.*

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*Reprinted with permission from the Telegraph Herald in Dubuque, Iowa, Nov. 14, 2009.*

# The real rules of war

## *Sometimes the good guys do commit 'war crimes'*

**By Warren Kozak**

*The Wall Street Journal* — Dec. 23, 2009

Five years ago, a particularly gruesome image made its way to our television screens from the war in Iraq. Four U.S. civilian contractors working in Fallujah were ambushed and killed by al Qaeda. Their bodies were burned, then dragged through the streets. Two of the charred bodies were hung from the Euphrates Bridge and left dangling.

This barbaric act left an impression that our military did not forget: In a special operation earlier this year, Navy SEALs captured the mastermind of that attack, Ahmed Hashim Abed. But after he was taken into custody in September, Abed claimed he was punched by his captors. He showed a fat lip to prove it. Three of the SEALs are now awaiting courts-martial on charges ranging from assault to dereliction of duty and making false statements.

This incident and its twisted irony takes me back to an oddly serene setting many years ago. When I was in college, I joined my parents on a trip to retrace my father's wartime experience in Europe. We drove from France, through Holland and Belgium and on to Germany – the same route he had taken with the U.S. Army in 1944-45. At a field outside the Belgian town of Malmedy, we got out of our rented car where my father described something I had never heard before.

During the Battle of the Bulge, in the bleak December of 1944, the Germans had quickly overrun the American lines. They took thousands of prisoners as they pushed through in a last chance gamble to turn the war around. One unit, part of the First SS Panzer Division, had captured over a hundred GIs. They were moving fast, and they didn't care to be burdened by prisoners. So the SS troops put the American soldiers in that field and mowed them down with machine guns.

Around 90 Americans were killed in that barrage. The Germans then walked through the tangle of bodies, shooting those who were still alive in the back of the head. The few that survived were brought to where my father was located in the nearby town of Liege where word of the massacre quickly spread.

My father was never a talker. And in spite of the

fact that we were on a trip to look at his past, he didn't open up much, or couldn't. When I asked him what the reaction was among the U.S. troops, he answered without emotion: "We didn't take prisoners for two weeks." I immediately understood what he meant, and had the sense not to press the issue any further. I just looked out at the field, now green and peaceful on a beautiful summer day, and realized he was looking at the same field and seeing something quite different.

In the weeks following the Malmedy massacre, U.S. troops clearly broke the rules of the Geneva Conventions. Justified or not, they were technically guilty of war crimes.

My guess is that the American correspondents imbedded with those troops knew all about this and chose not to report it. So did their officers. They understood the gravity of the war, as well as the absolute importance of its outcome. And they understood that disclosing this information might ultimately help the enemy. In other words, they used common sense. Was the U.S. a lesser country because these GIs weren't arrested? Was the Constitution jeopardized? Somehow it survived.

You don't have to dig too deep to understand that war brings out behavior in people that they would never demonstrate in normal life. In Paul Fussell's moving memoir, "The Boys' Crusade," the former infantryman relates a story about the liberation of Dachau. There were about 120 SS guards who had been captured by the Americans. Even though the Germans were being held at gunpoint, they still had the arrogance – or epic stupidity – to continue to heap verbal abuse and threats on the inmates. Their American guards, thoroughly disgusted by what they had already witnessed in the camp, had seen enough and opened fire on the SS. Some of the remaining SS guards were handed over to the inmates who tore them limb from limb. Another war crime? No doubt. Justified? It depends on your point of view. But before you weigh in, realize that you didn't walk through the camp. You didn't smell it. You didn't witness the obscene horror of the Nazis.

Rules of war are important. They are something to strive for as they separate us from our distant ancestors.

But when only one side follows these rules, they no longer elevate us. They create a very unlevel field and more than a little frustration. It is equally bizarre for any of us to judge someone's behavior in war by the rules we follow in our very peaceful universe. We sit in homes that are air-conditioned in the summer and warmed in the winter. We have more than enough food in our bellies and we get enough sleep. The stress in our lives won't ever match the stress of battle. Can we honestly begin to decide if a soldier acted in compliance with rules that work perfectly well on Main Street but not, say, in Malmedy or Fallujah?

In his book, Mr. Fussell probably sums up the feelings of many soldiers when he quotes a British captain, John Tonkin, who experienced a great deal of the war. "I have always felt," Capt. Tonkin said, "that the Geneva Convention is a dangerous piece of stupidity, because it leads people to believe that war can be civilized. It can't."

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*Mr. Kozak is the author of "LeMay: The Life and Wars of General Curtis LeMay" (Regnery, 2009). Dow Jones & Co. — Permission Granted*

## ***The realities of war and the aftermath***

In his non-fiction book, "WWII," Guadalcanal veteran James Jones tells about talking with a Ranger staff sergeant he met in St. Louis who told him, "One day at Anzio we got eight new replacements into my platoon. We were supposed to make a little feeling attack that same day. Well, by next day, all eight of them replacements were dead, buddy. But none of us old guys were. We weren't going to send our own guys out on point in a damnfool situation like that. We knew nothing would happen. We were sewed up tight. And we'd been together through Africa, and Sicily, and Salerno. We sent the replacements out ahead."

Jones said the man gave him "a sad smile" and continued, "But how am I going to explain something like that to my wife? She'd think it was horrible. But it was right, man, right. How were we going to send our own guys out into that?"

After that, Jones said the two had "more drinks, got pretty drunk in fact, then he went home to his wife. Who, I am sure, was angry at him for getting drunk."

In the same section of Jones' book titled, "An End To It," he asked, "How did you come back from counting yourself as dead?" Jones wrote about another time when he talked to "an infantry sergeant

who had fought in the Bulge" and described how his platoon had taken some prisoners west of St. Vith.

"There were eight of them, and they were tough old-timers, buddy," the sergeant said. "Been through the mill from the beginning. It was about the fourth or fifth day, and we needed some information. But they weren't talking, not those tough old birds. You had to admire them. So we took the first one off to the side, where they could see him, and shot him through the head. Then they all talked. They were eager to talk. Once they knew we were serious. Horrible? Evil? We knew all about Malmedy (where about 90 American prisoners of war were murdered by their German captors), man, and Stavelot. We needed that information. Our lives depended on it. We didn't think it was evil. Neither did they. But how am I going to tell my wife about something like that? Or my mother? They don't understand the problems."

Jones went on to say the two of them kept drinking, getting drunk until the other man "felt he was ready to go home." So it seems that sometimes there is a need to talk about those things, if there is the right person to talk to; and sometimes there's nothing they want to talk about, and combat veterans keep it to themselves.

— **Ray Elliott**

# Visiting USS Iwo Jima: ‘You done good’

By Col. Charles A. Jones, USMC Reserve (Ret.)

*“The best [men’s names] are inscribed  
on the war monument.”*

— actor Philippe Torreton

*from the motion picture “Capitaine Conan”*

Ships were and continue to be an important part of the careers of most Marines. One ship of importance to Iwo Jima veterans is USS Iwo Jima. Her designation, LHD-7, means she is an amphibious ship that can carry troops, equipment, helicopters and aircraft.

Of all the U.S. Navy bases in the world, Iwo Jima’s homeport is at the Norfolk Naval Station, not far from where I live. In 2006, the ship’s crew invited Iwo Jima veterans to come aboard ship for a ceremony and dinner. I had the honor aboard ship of escorting two Marine veterans, Rudy Mueller of Fox Company, 2/26, who was wounded on Iwo and was one of the few Company men to walk off Iwo (the Company lost 76 killed), and his brother, Carl, who joined the Marine Corps late in World War II.

After the dinner each veteran received an American flag and certificate. The event was, from beginning to end, a selfless, first-class affair with the crew going far beyond what anyone would or could expect. To say that the crew treated the veterans with respect is an understatement.

I knew that the ship had an Iwo Jima display, but unfortunately I forgot to find and to visit it when I attended the 2006 ceremony. I should have returned the next day to find the ship, but for some reason I did not return to the ship to visit the room although I had many opportunities to do so. Years passed: 2006; 2007; 2008; and most of 2009. I always had a ship visit in the back of my mind but never “executed.”

Then coincidence, to the extent that one believes in coincidences, struck. In September 2009 I waited to sign the roster so I could swim at a Navy pool. I noticed the sailor in front of me had written “LHD-7” for his command on the roster sheet. I thought that was the designation for USS Iwo Jima, and I asked him if the ship was at the Norfolk piers. He told me she was and would be there for several weeks but would then go to the shipyard.

Knowing that shipyards are highly secure areas with limited access, I decided to visit the ship the next day. I boarded the ship, showed my military identification card, and was shown the memorial room for Iwo Jima, which is near the galley where the crew’s food is prepared.

The room had a display case with two Japanese rifles and an impressive wall display with the photograph and citation for each of the (27) Medal of Honor recipients for the battle of Iwo Jima.

But the stunning part of the room is the Walls of the Dead. The Walls give one pause to think about the nearly universal sentiment among combat veterans about the meaning of the word “hero”: they believe that the “heroes” are those who do not return. And, one thinks about the observation of actor Philippe Torreton portraying a French veteran of World War I in the movie “Capitaine Conan” to the effect that the names of the best men are those inscribed on war monuments, monuments such as the ship’s Walls of the Dead.

The Walls were five glass panels, each with 10 rows (6,821 died on Iwo Jima) engraved vertically in alphabetical order in glass and painted white. The names began with the Marines; after the last name of the Marines were the names of the Navy dead; after the last name of the Navy dead were the names of the Army dead, which was one complete row.

With my usual determination and endurance, I videotaped each name, taping for 82 minutes nonstop. If I recognized a name, I stopped to tell the man’s story. I wish I knew the story of one Marine with a famous name: Private First Class Robert E. Lee of the 27th Marine Regiment.

The number of names was staggering, whether seen in person or days later on video. The viewer becomes numb or stupefied after seeing and reading, literally, hundreds of names etched in glass, each representing a person who was alive until a government-mandated visit to Iwo Jima. I counted the number of names in only one row, a row in the Marine section. The number was 110.

The names of the dead included men of all grades, from private to lieutenant colonel. For officers, the number of second lieutenants was overwhelming. By far it seemed to be the most frequent grade for officers listed on the Walls.

The Walls of the Dead reminded me of visiting the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC and seeing the names carved in the monument. But those were names for an entire war, not just for one battle. During one visit to the Wall, Dick Gray, an Army pilot who experienced heavy combat in Vietnam, pointed out names of men he knew. Being my usual self, I asked him dozens of questions about the war and about the men he knew who were lost in the war. I thought all my questions irritated him, but he later sent me an email with this comment:

“The trips to ‘The Wall’ with you were very meaningful to me also. Your thirst for details regarding the who, when, how etc. of each name makes me feel good. Because of your curiosity, and others such as you, I am confident the deeds of those [whose] names are on the monument will not soon be forgotten. You done good.”

I left the ship. And the Walls. I felt and thought that I had “done good,” although I had no Iwo Jima veterans in the room with me to whom I could address questions, but I had no questions because I already knew so much about the men whose names I was capturing on tape.

I still wonder about what I saw on the ship and why some names were there and some were not, why some men survived Iwo Jima and some men, whose names were on the Wall, did not. But if people ask me the price of Iwo Jima, I now know where to tell them to look.

***Editor’s Note:** Col. Jones spent a combined total of 28 years in the Marine Corps as a Regular and Reservist, serving as a Marine judge advocate (military lawyer) during his career. He can be contacted at [usmcra81@yahoo.com](mailto:usmcra81@yahoo.com). USS Iwo Jima also has a Web site at [www.iwo-jima.navy.mil](http://www.iwo-jima.navy.mil). Col. Jones writes that he “has had the honor to be an associate member of Fox Company, 2/26 since meeting some of its members during the 1995 trip to Iwo Jima.” He thanks Rudy Mueller, the historian of Fox Company 2/26, for information making this article possible. Col. Jones dedicates this article to all the Marines and Corpsmen of Fox Company, especially those who died on Iwo Jima and whose names are on the Walls of the Dead aboard the ship. And he also extends his appreciation to the ship and her watch section for permitting him to board and to visit her Iwo Jima room.*

## **‘BIG HURRAH’**

*Continued from page 3*

a code talker and currently secretary of the Code Talkers Association, told the group that she is working with others to build a Cold Talker Museum in Arizona.

At the conclusion of the symposium the next day, a trio of Code Talkers sang a rendition of the Marine Corps Hymn in Navajo.

“Talk about chills running down your back,” Butler said.

With continued interest, it seems as though the IJAA may continue long after the last Iwo Jima veteran is no longer standing. According to Butler, IJAA officers are interested in helping. To join the effort, contact Jim Adams, IJAA administrative director at [Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org](mailto:Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org) or find more information about the organization at [www.IwoJimaAssociation.org](http://www.IwoJimaAssociation.org).

And there were others interested in perpetuating the history and legacy of the Iwo Jima campaign who attended the reunion and symposium. Diane Hawkins, niece of Medal of Honor and Navy Cross recipient John “Manila John” Basilone and director of the Sgt. John Basilone Foundation, Inc. ([www.sgtjohnbasilone.com](http://www.sgtjohnbasilone.com)), is working on a documentary about her uncle. After the reunion, she traveled to Iwo Jima with Military Historical tours for more background and sources for interviews.

Army veteran Bob Bolus, owner of Bolus Truck Parts ([www.bolustruckparts.com](http://www.bolustruckparts.com)) in Throop, Pa., is on a mission to discover the remains of Sgt. Bill Genaust, Marine Corps combat photographer who filmed the second flag raising on Mt. Suribachi with a motion picture, standing next to Joe Rosenthal when he took the iconic picture of the flag raising that earned him a Pulitzer Prize and became one of the most recognized photos and monuments in the world.

Bolus ([BobusSalvage@yahoo.com](mailto:BobusSalvage@yahoo.com)) wants to find the remains and bring them home for burial. He hopes to find someone who might know the location where Sgt. Genaust was entombed. Bolus is financing the mission and has a team of experts lined up to go to Iwo Jima as soon as he obtains permission.

With all the interest in Iwo Jima, no doubt kids who are the warriors of tomorrow will be riding an elevator at reunion somewhere with a grizzled veteran of their war and echo the two Iwo Jima veterans talking to one another about how it is difficult to believe that 65 years have passed since their time on the battlefield.

“Hell, those Iwo Jima veterans were still around when we were growing up,” one of them could very well say. “Can you believe that?”

# Marine Military Academy a worthwhile visit

**By Michelle Newman**

It's so easy to hop on Southwest Airline's non-stop flight (from San Antonio) to Harlingen, Texas, and in less than an hour you'll arrive in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. Just around the corner from the Valley International Airport is a piece of U.S. history and the best deal in town – the highly acclaimed Marine Military Academy and the Iwo Jima Museum and Monument.

Winter Texans (that's what the snowbirds from the Midwest are lovingly called) know a good deal when they see one. For only \$10, guests are invited to take a thorough three-hour guided tour of the campus, see the cadet's classrooms and barracks, the killer obstacle course, and enjoy a "free lunch" in the mess hall with the cadets. So how can you beat that? It's no wonder the winter Texans flock here by the busload. After the tour they are invited to visit the Iwo Jima Museum and Monument, which is located on campus. The monument is the original (Felix de Weldon) sculpture from which the mold was made for the Arlington version.

This tiny museum is a gem and houses an impressive collection of World War II memorabilia, including captured Japanese swords, flags, helmets and U.S. Marine items. One of the most fascinating pieces in the collection is the Japanese Senninbari or belt of a thousand stitches. This battle belt is about a four-inch-wide, quilted silk obi-style belt that is embroidered with 1,000 stitches, has lucky coins sewn on its surface and is believed to protect the warrior in battle.

There's also an excellent 30-minute narrated video of the Iwo battle. Gloria Boling, the museum director, runs a terrific gift shop that's fully stocked with military badges, caps, T-shirts, bomber jackets, medals, etc. I'm very proud of my patriotic uncle, Sheldon Silverston, (a Korean War vet and Silver Star recipient) and bought him a Korean War vet cap, which I know he'll wear with pride.

Now, if you're really lucky, you may even meet one of the two Third Marine Division Iwo Jima veterans Joe

Kight (A/1/12) who landed on D+2 with 1/9 and served as a forward observer, and Bob Bloedorn (A/1/9), who also landed a few days after D-Day. Both will gladly tell first-hand war stories about beach landings in the midst of heavy enemy fire, the horrific casualties and

the surprise Japanese attack. The enemy had built a complex series of underground tunnels, which were originally sulfur mines.

Kight pointed out some of the major Iwo Jima battles on the original 3-D topographical map, which was actually used to plan the invasion. While these men are in their 80s now, in their younger days, they were a fearless group to be reckoned with. These brave men stood up to bat and did what they had to do. They faced fear straight in the eye and didn't wimp out in one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific. Their role in the success in capturing Iwo Jima confirms their amazing courage

and spirit. This was indeed the greatest generation, and we owe so much to them for the sacrifices they made.

The Marine Military Academy is a premier learning institution committed to academic and physical excellence, and good character building. They take their motto seriously: "Educating the future generation of American leaders."

Col. Tom Hobbs, admissions director, explained that math, science, character building, traditional values, and a sense of community volunteerism are emphasized here. The small class size with a low student-teacher ratio makes a big difference in college admissions. Col. Hobbs invited me to return and participate in July's summer camp ... while I'd have liked to accept his gracious invitation, I'd probably be a dropout on the first day.

So come visit the Marine Military Academy, pay your respects to the Iwo Jima veterans, and experience the original Iwo Jima sculpture for yourself.



**Veteran Joe Kight (A/1/12) points out key areas in the battle for Iwo Jima for museum visitors.**

---

*Photo by Michelle Newman. For more information: [www.mma-tx.org](http://www.mma-tx.org). Reprinted with permission.*

# HBO miniseries depicts WWII Marines in 'The Pacific'

*"It is not a history, and it is not my story alone. I have attempted, rather, to be the spokesman for my comrades, who were swept with me into the abyss of war."*

– Eugene B. Sledge, *With the Old Breed*

The epic 10-part miniseries event, "The Pacific," based on the true stories of World War II Marines, debuts on March 14, followed by other parts debuting on consecutive Sundays through May 16.

The HBO miniseries is executive produced by Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and Gary Goetzman, the team behind the Emmy Award-winning and Golden Globe-winning 2001 HBO miniseries "Band of Brothers."

"The Pacific" tracks the intertwined real-life journeys of three U.S. Marines – Robert Leckie (James Badge Dale), Eugene Sledge (Joe Mazzello) and John Basilone (Jon Seda) – across the vast canvas of the Pacific Theater during World War II. The miniseries follows these men and their fellow Marines from their first battle with the Japanese on Guadalcanal, through the rain forests of Cape Gloucester and the strongholds of Peleliu, across the bloody sands of Iwo Jima and through the horror of Okinawa, and finally to their triumphant but uneasy return home after V-J Day.

The miniseries is based in part on the books "Helmet for My Pillow" by Robert Leckie and "With the Old Breed" by Eugene B. Sledge, with additional material from "Red Blood, Black Sand," by Chuck Tatum and "China Marine" by Eugene B. Sledge, as well as original interviews conducted by the filmmakers.

While "Band of Brothers" followed the experiences of one company of Army paratroopers in the European Theater, "The Pacific" depicts the war a world away, encompassing most of the Pacific Ocean and its islands, including the Philippines, the Netherlands East Indies, New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This miniseries follows three men of the 1st Marine Division, an infantry division nicknamed "The Old Breed" for its position as the oldest and largest active-duty division of the Marine Corps. With the support of their fellow Marines and comrades in the Navy, Air Force and Army, the 1st Marine Division was at the forefront of many of the hardest-fought campaigns of the Pacific War.

Pfc. Robert Leckie grew up in Rutherford, N.J., one of eight children. He began a sportswriting career for the

Bergen Evening Record at age 16. Leckie, who was christened "Lucky" by his comrades, was one of those who enlisted in the Marine Corps just after Pearl Harbor. He served with H/2/1, 1st Marine Division, as a machine gunner.

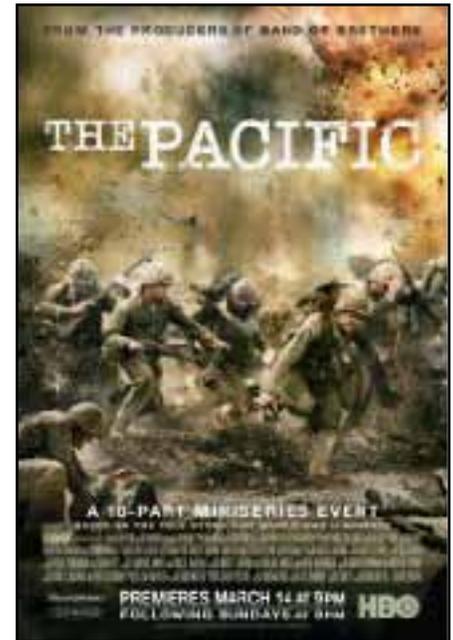
Sgt. John

Basilone was raised in Raritan, N.J., one of 10 children of Italian immigrant parents. In 1934, at age 18, Basilone enlisted in the U.S. Army and served three years in the Philippines, where he was a champion boxer. After a brief return to New Jersey, Basilone enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940 and was a machine gunner with C/1/7, 1st Marine Division, and later with the C/1/27, 5th Marine Division.

Born to a privileged family in Mobile, Ala., Pfc. Eugene B. Sledge had relatives on both sides of his family who fought for the Confederacy. Sledge was the son of a physician who was a medical officer during World War I; he had turned 18 just one month before the U.S. entered the war, but a heart condition kept him from enlisting until December 1942. Although his family urged him to train as an officer, Sledge ultimately joined as an enlisted man and served with K/3/5, 1st Marine Division, as a mortarman.

Over the span of 10 hours, "The Pacific" takes an unflinching "under the helmet" look at the experiences of these men and their brothers in arms, each of whom finds himself fighting for his life on faraway specks of land they had never heard of – Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Okinawa. Forced to endure extreme deprivation and a debilitating climate, while fighting a brutal enemy who would rather die than consider surrender, these Marines are driven to the brink of their humanity.

"The Pacific" depicts these battles – physical, mental and emotional – as it explores the true human cost of war.



## MORE REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Third Marine Division Association

Annual Family Reunion

Sheraton North Charleston Hotel

Charleston, S.C.

Aug. 4-8, 2010

Anyone who served in, was attached to, or served in support of the Third Marine Division at any time since it was formed on Sept. 16, 1942, is eligible for membership and cordially invited to attend. For information, contact Vice President Jeffery A. Dement, 23830 W. Ottawa St., Plainfield, IL 60544 or call 815-436-3783 (home) or 815-354-4555 (cell), [jeffdement@aol.com](mailto:jeffdement@aol.com) or visit the Third Marine Division Association Web site at [www.caltrap.com](http://www.caltrap.com)

### 11th Engineer Battalion

Third Marine Division

Dong Ha, R.V.N., 1965-1970

Chicago, Ill.

July 2010

Looking for Marine and Navy personnel attached and Marines of 3rd Bridge Company attached.

Contact Charles Luhan Jr. at

8451 S. Kilbourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60652

Call after 7 p.m. 773-585-9629

[CL11enrbrn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CL11enrbrn@sbcglobal.net)

## Grandson seeks book about Iwo Jima fortifications

My grandfather, also Cyrus Morgan, fought on Iwo Jima with the Fifth Marine Division. He attended many reunions until he passed away in 2003. I am trying to find a book that he had. It was about the fortifications of Iwo Jima and had a yellow cover. He gave it to me years ago and then asked for it back to send to someone who may have been writing a book. I am trying to locate this book as it has a picture of him standing in a bunker, and it is the only picture I have seen of him on the island. It is a long shot, but I was hoping to see if any of your members may have been the one my grandfather sent this book to. Thank you.

— Cyrus Morgan

[cyrus.morgan@comcast.net](mailto:cyrus.morgan@comcast.net)

## NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME ABOARD!

BOLTON, Jo Ellen **ASSOC** San Antonio, FL  
HANCOCK, Paul **MGY SGT** Camp Pendleton, CA

### Life Members

RONDERO DEMEISER, R.C., **ASSOC** Houston, TX  
RONDERO, David D., **ASSOC** Pleasanton, CA  
RONDERO, David V. Jr., **ASSOC** Pleasanton, CA

AGENBROAD, Owen **F-2-27** Dayton, WA  
BAUMHOEGGER, F. **ASSOC** High Ridge, MO  
BRADDOCK, William M. **B-1-28** Pensacola, FL  
BREWER, Loyd **I-3-27** North Newton, KS  
BROADFOOT, Dwayne **A-1-27** Paisley, OR  
BRUSA, Adolph B. **C-1-27** Salinas, CA  
CARLSON, John W. **B-1-28** Rice Lake, WI  
CHADWICK, Robert L. **HQ-2-26** South Hero, VT  
CRAM, Charles H. **A-1-26** Murrieta, CA  
CURLEY, Jack **11TH AMPH** Claremont, CA  
DAWSON, Bert **C-1-26** Alvin, TX  
DAY, Sgt Maj Frank H. **E-2-26** Escondido, CA  
DEAL, Glenn W. Jr. **5TH ENGR** China Grove, NC  
EYRE, Edward **WPNS-28** Bryan, TX  
FACCENDA, Remuldo M. **E-2-13** Great Falls, MT  
FLETCHER, Bernadine A. **ASSOC** N. Olmsted, OH  
HIGGINS, Charles T. **B-1-28** Mount Vernon, WA  
HORA, Joseph E. **HS-13** Sun Lakes, AZ  
JACOBS, Robert P. **HQ-13** San Pedro, CA  
KINSEY, David B. Jr. **G-3-13** Taft, TX  
LANCLOS, Alton **F-2-28** Bossier City, LA  
LINDQUIST, Walter A. **HQ-1-26** Joliet, IL  
MADDEN, Wm. **E-2-27** South Bend, IN  
MARTIN, Robert C. **F-2-28** Aiken, SC  
McGRUDER, Patricia **ASSOC** Escondido, CA  
McLAUGHLIN, Howard N. Jr. **5TH ENGR** Fortuna, CA  
MERSHON, Sharon **ASSOC** Portland, OR  
MILLER, Gerald **H-3-27** Scottsdale, AZ  
NESTOR, Edward R. **D-2-26** Campbell, OH  
OVERGARD, Joyce J. **ASSOC** Harrison, AR  
PETERSON, Bruce **A-5TH PION** St. Augustine, FL  
SCARFO, John J. **E-2-27** Utica, NY  
SCHUTT, Clarence A. **5TH PION** Hixson, TN  
SIMMONS, Garland J. **HQ-28** Oak Hill, WV  
TERRY, Deward G. **M-4-13** O'Fallon, MO  
THAMES, J.E. **A-1-26** Beaufort, SC  
VISCANTI, Anthony **HS-2-13** LaMirada, CA  
WEAVER, Delmar **5TH ENGR** St. Augustine, FL  
WEBER, Robert C. **E-2-26** Bay City, MI  
WEITZEL, Joseph **5TH TANK** Lincoln, NE  
WILT, Robert E. **C-1-26** Yonkers, NY

# Spearhead Magazine reprints available

Do you remember your *Spearhead Magazines* from the 1940s? If you have misplaced any of your three copies and are interested in replacing them, we have just the solution for you. I have had copies made of all three issues, and you can still obtain copies if you want to replace the original ones. There are still a few sets left, and I do not intend to order more.

They are now in 8.5" x 11" format, printed on cardstock paper with a spiral binding and plastic covers. They will lay flat and are very easy to see and read. The copies are a great addition to your keepsakes and also a great gift for your children and grandchildren. Many of our members have bought copies for their loved ones.

This was the idea of Steve Vogelzang, nephew of Sam Zigtema, a member of the Pioneers, who wanted to honor his uncle. I agreed to take on the project, and all proceeds above the costs of printing and mailing will go to the Injured Marines Semper Fi Fund through the Ladies' Auxiliary. The auxiliary has been donating our funds to this group for several years because it helps our Marines.

Each copy is \$20, plus \$5 for mailing. (We can mail up to three copies for the \$5.) The copies available are #1 "Camp Pendleton"; #2 "Iwo Jima"; and #3 "Occupation of Japan." If you're interested in obtaining copies please contact me.

– D.D. Dietz

NOV - APR (Arizona):  
dddietz@cox.net  
(520) 622-2450

MAY - OCT (Wisconsin):  
dddietz@aol.com  
(608) 254-1976



## FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")

ADAMS, William T. **A-1-26** Sep 2006  
 BOARDMAN, Robert Unknown  
 BOHREN, Paul C. **B-1-13** 08/09/08  
 BRANCA, Joseph A. **K-4-13** 12/7/09  
 DOOLEY, Bill **HQ-3-26** 01/9/10  
 DOERING, Ted **5TH SIG** 02/23/10  
 ESSER, Arthur **5TH SIG** 12/27/09  
 FIELDS, Col. Thomas M. **D-2-26** 11/29/09  
 GREENE, Alfred J. Jr. **5TH JASCO** Unknown  
 GRISWOLD, James W. **B-1-28** 04/01/09  
 HOLT, Sam J. **HQ-1-26** 02/2/07  
 JUSTICE, James E. Jr. **A-1-27** 10/5/09  
 KEELEY, Dean F. **F-2-26** 02/11/10  
 KERR, Jay A. **D-2-26** 12/19/09  
 MANLEY, Maurice **CBN4-620** 08/19/09  
 PETERSEN, Ernest F. **HS-4-13** 01/18/10  
 PROUX, Paul **5TH JASCO** 04/25/09  
 REYNOLDS, Col. Joe Unknown  
 SHERMAN, Charles **27TH REP** 09/7/09  
 TYRE, Thomas E. **D-2-13** 11/26/09



## Secretary's Corner

If we want our Association to continue, someone will have to run a reunion in 2011. You do not need to be an Iwo Jima veteran in order to handle a reunion. Any member, including an associate member, man or woman, can do so. I would like to suggest a couple of locations where a reunion could be held:

- 1) Rapid City, S.D., would be a fine location. You have Mount Rushmore nearby and also the Monument to Chief Crazy Horse that is being built near Custer, S.D.
- 2) Someone told me that the Ho-Chunk Casino and Hotel near Wisconsin Dells would be another possibility. There are several scenic places close by.
- 3) I would also suggest Fresno, Calif.

If anyone needs help with the application for the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund, you need to phone this number for information: 800-292-7777. This must be done soon for the next school year.

Please let us know of any change of address as soon as possible. The U.S. Post Office will not forward *The Spearhead News* unless you have paid in advance.

If you have not paid your 2010 dues by March 31, you will be dropped from our membership data base.

– Ted Overgard  
Secretary

## FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

### Statement of Income

Year Ended December 31,	2009	2008
<b>INCOME -</b>		
- Dues	11,135.00	10,745.00
- General	1,088.00	1,814.70
- Membership receipts	12,223.00	12,559.70
- Interest income	6,832.63	6,630.20
- TOTAL INCOME	19,055.63	19,189.90
<b>EXPENSE -</b>		
- Administrative services	14,005.84	11,300.00
- Office expenses	1,353.08	1,241.42
- Reunion advance	3,000.00	2,912.00
- Spearhead News		
- Donation to BAR on the Beach Fund	40,000.00	0.00
- Production & distribution	8,804.46	8,575.05
- TOTAL EXPENSE	67,163.38	24,028.47
<b>NET INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>(48,107.75)</b>	<b>(4,838.57)</b>

### Statement of Accounts

	Balance		
	31-Dec-09	31-Dec-08	
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Bank Account	39,596.42	49,496.65	(9,900.23)
<b>Investments -</b>			
Bank of America CD 2.23% due February 21, 2010; 4.90% due February 21, 2009	36,180.04	35,387.56	792.48
Uvest Financial Services - CIT Group Inc. Internotes, 6.0% due August 15, 2009	0.00	100,000.00	(100,000.00)
Less unrealized loss on investment	0.00	(8,773.00)	8,773.00
Gold in deposit, at cost Market value \$54,760.00	61,000.00	0.00	61,000.00
Total Investments	97,180.04	126,614.56	(29,434.52)
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Worth	136,776.46	176,111.21	(39,334.75)

### BAR on the Beach update

The \$100,000 contract for the BAR on the Beach Statue is now paid with more than \$7,000 surplus to apply to the black granite pedestal on which it will stand. Only about \$13,000 is needed to complete the project.

More than 200 members of the Fifth Marine Division Association or their families have contributed to this effort – some of them donating twice and a few three times. Anyone wishing to see the finished statue in bronze may contact Bert Clayton at [baclayt@cox.net](mailto:baclayt@cox.net). He has said he will send four

“striking” photos of the figure and will include a full-page artist’s rendition of the statue and pedestal together in place.

Donations, payable to BAR on the Beach Fund, may still be sent to Bert A. Clayton, 1714 Deer Run Dr., Harrison, AR 72601-3936. With funding completed, Clayton says, “the BAR on the Beach statue can be installed at the Semper Fi Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps (in Triangle, Va.) some time later this year or early in 2011 when the park is ready for it.”

# Cocky's Boy

By Bert Clayton

Elderberry Press, 311 pages

For a blurb about my "Iwo Blasted Again" novella, Iwo Jima veteran Marine Col. Gerald Russell wrote, "It seems that in their (combat veterans) later years, these long-dormant, suppressed memories return with surprising, haunting clarity."

That rings true. World War II veterans more than veterans of most wars came home after the war, went to work, went to college, got married, raised families and went on with their lives. They'd done their job, helped defeat Japan and Germany and wanted no more to do with war.

But as they moved into their later years and retirement, their sons and daughters, grandchildren and other family members and friends told them, coaxed them in some cases, to write their memories of what they'd experienced as young men and women as a record for the family. I've seen and received a number of those booklets since taking on the job of editing *Spearhead News* and have published some excerpts.

Former *Spearhead* editor Bert Clayton (5th Sig) and Iwo Jima veteran has gone a step further. He's written a memoir about growing up in the Midwest in the Depression

years preceding World War II, as well as his memories of serving in the Marine Corps before, during and after Iwo Jima.

Readers get a first-hand account of what life was like in those days, both as a kid and as a Marine. This genre and Bert's account is work right down my alley. In another life, I was an English and journalism instructor who encouraged students to record the life and times of their older relatives and community members to preserve the history of an earlier time.

Bert has done a credible job of doing just that. If you grew up during this time, his book will remind you of your own life in those days; if you grew up in the years after the war or nowadays, his book will give you a clear picture of a simpler time that was brought to an end when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and dragged the U.S. into a global war where life was uncertain for everyone.

That's not to say that life was always certain for Bert, his family or the people of the time. His sometimes difficult father who often drank too much, his loving mother and he moved here and there when it was necessary for his father to find work. But they endured "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" with a dignity, a humor and a purpose that would serve people well in today's world.

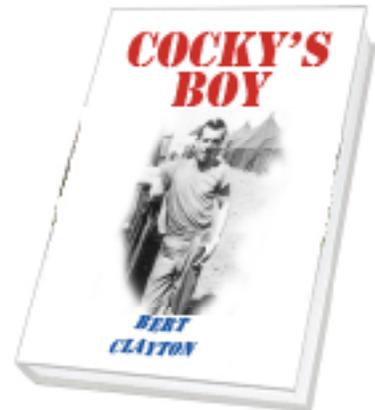
You'll enjoy Bert's humor and perspective as he tells you about his life and how he appreciates what it gave him.

**- Ray Elliott**

***"Not since Kirk Douglas' memoir, 'Ragman's Son' has a memoir spoken so clearly to 'The Greatest Generation.'"***

Night Owl Reviews

***"Cockey's Boy is thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining. Mr. Clayton does an exceptional job of illustrating his experiences through fascinating and fun storytelling. The book plays out almost like a film, giving the reader a genuine vested interest for its characters and an insight into their lives. I actually have lived in the central Illinois area for most of my life and a good portion of Mr. Clayton's book takes place there. It's very fascinating to read about things that once were, especially in a place as important as one's own home. This is not the biography of a celebrity, or a king or president. You won't find fantastic stories of action and adventure. But what you will find is the richness of a life well spent. And the spirit of a man that is just like the rest of us, an honest, hard working, American. This book does an exceptional job of putting into perspective the things in our lives that often go overlooked, the experiences that seem taxing or troublesome, or perhaps even unimportant at the time. But stepping back and looking at them all as a single picture, seeing the jigsaw puzzle of our lives pieced together, reminds me that the measure of a man is found in the journey." A. Jeffries "Chillicothe Public Library" (Chillicothe IL)***



**Available at your favorite bookseller**

**Cocky's Boy by Bert Clayton, isbn: 978-1-934956-20-5, 300 page illustrated softcover, \$19.95**

**For rush delivery call our 24 hour order line: (800) 431-1579.**

# FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Ted Overgard, Secretary  
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Mail to:  
5th Marine Division Association  
Ted Overgard, Secretary  
P.O. Box 1775  
Harrison, AR 72602-1775

Date of birth (for Life Membership): \_\_\_\_\_

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ADS		NL	

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- (  ) Annual ..... \$ 25.00
- (  ) Lifetime ..... \$ 150.00  
*age 64 and under*
- (  ) Lifetime ..... \$ 100.00  
*age 65 through 79*
- (  ) Lifetime ..... \$ 50.00  
*age 80 and over*
- (  ) General Fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Make checks payable to: 5th Marine Division Assn.)*