



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**63RD ANNUAL REUNION - RENO, NEVADA
AUGUST 26 -31, 2012
SILVER LEGACY RESORT CASINO**

Ann-Margaret salutes Division during reunion

By Ray Elliott

If you've never been to Branson, Mo., you missed a great opportunity to enjoy some early fall days in the entertainment mecca of the Ozarks and get together with veterans of the Fifth Marine Division and their families and friends at the Association reunion Oct. 12-15.

A small town of only some 6,000 permanent residents nestled in the Ozark Mountains and lake country of southwestern Missouri, about 50 miles south of Springfield and just north of the Arkansas state line, the Chamber of Commerce bills it as the "Live Entertainment Capital of the World." While that may be a stretch, more than 7 million tourists a year make their way to Branson for vacation. There is plenty of live entertainment and many of the Association members spent afternoons and evenings attending shows at half the price they'd expect to pay in Las Vegas and other venues around the country with live entertainment.

The city caters to veterans who have served in the



Entertainer Ann-Margret acknowledges a T-shirt depicting the Iwo Jima flag raising that was presented by Fifth Marine Division Association President Thomas Kalus (foreground) during the reunion in Branson in October.

military in our country's wars as part of the attraction. After the Ann-Margaret performance, the Association members in attendance moved to the front of the theater

Continued on page 8



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SPEARHEAD NEWS

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In This Issue:

Patrol's climb up Suribachi	2
The Editor's Desk	3
Letters	4
Final Muster	7
Secretary's Corner	7
New Members	7
Association Business Meeting Minutes	9
Keep the memory alive	10
Division Unit Citations	11
"Gettysburg of the Pacific" poem	11
Reflections on a Veteran	12
Book Review	15

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available to view at www.talesspress.com**

More on patrol's climb up Suribachi before flag raising

By Jim Shriver, I/3/28

Treasurer

On reading the review by Charles Neimeyer [of Gen Fred Haynes' book, *The Lions of Iwo Jima*] in the Marine Corps Gazette in 2008), the reviewer was critical of a story provided by one of the members of CT-28 who claimed that he and his sergeant climbed to the top of Suribachi on D+3, the day before the flag raising.

I have not read the book [at the time of the review and this article], but in his phone contact with me (when the general was asking for any information I might provide him for use in the book and the names and phone numbers of the members of I/3/28 to whom I send a bi-annual newsletter), Haynes asked if I could describe my own actions as we secured Suribachi.

I believe I told him that on the day before the flag raising, just at daylight, Sgt Ed Jones, platoon guide of the 3rd platoon, took Pvt Frank Prelic, Pvt Ed Mackoff and myself on a patrol part way up Suribachi. Ed Jones was a former 1stSgt in the Raiders who had been on an extended patrol behind Japanese lines on Guadalcanal — when they disbanded the Raiders, he was busted down to buck sergeant; that was the way things went in the Old Corps.

The purpose of the patrol, as best I could determine, was to evaluate the terrain just above where we were digging in for the night. We went only part way up, never reaching the top. On coming back down, it was near dark, and Jones had me dig in as he departed to report his evaluation.

On his return, it was raining and he joined me in our hole. As the night wore on, wet, cold and scared as hell, while on watch, I got a poke in the ribs and Jones handed me a small bottle in the dark — which I recognized as a corpsman's brandy. I took it down in one long swig, and to this day I can almost feel the glow of warmth it provided.

Prelic and Mackoff were both killed the following day. Jones lasted longer than I did, I believe, but was badly wounded, losing the use of one of his arms for life. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions on Iwo.

In one of my bi-annual letters to our Company I survivors, the subject of climbing Suribachi came

Continued on page 6

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



Buddies find closure by learning of burial site of fallen Iwo Jima Marine

As I wrote in the Winter 2010-11 Spearhead column after visiting the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines in November 2010, there are three Marines who were killed on Iwo Jima buried there: Pfc Edgar O. Anthony, I/3/26, Pvt Randall C. Bonovitch, 31st Replacement Battalion, and Pfc Paul W. Watson, B/1/28.

SgtMaj Hubert Caloud, USMC (Ret.), assistant superintendent of the cemetery, had brought these men to my attention when I was looking for another Marine buried there. He also told me about Henry Clay Belcher, another I/3/26 Iwo Jima veteran from Iowa, Caloud's home state, who had been part of the assault on a bunker when Pfc Anthony's flamethrower was hit, exploded and burned him beyond recognition.

I called and talked to Belcher, then got a call from Alfred W. Jennings, another I/3/26 Marine who had said he'd been some 15 or 20 feet behind Anthony when he was hit.

"We marked him as best we could," Jennings told me at the Branson reunion in October. His call had come after he'd seen the picture of the grave marker in Spearhead. "We sat his rifle up and hung what was left of his dog tag on it. You couldn't read his name, but that's all there was to identify him."

And for 65 years, Jennings, Belcher and others thought Anthony was still on the island. Jennings went back to Iwo Jima with a group of Colorado Iwo Jima survivors with The Greatest Generation Foundation in 2010 and figured the Marine was buried under the airfield near where he had been killed.

"I was in heaven when I saw the marker in Spearhead," Jennings said. "I knew he wasn't in Japanese hands. All these years I thought he was covered up on the island. That picture and the write-up

relieved me and gave me closure. I'd always sworn up and down that he was still there."

Soon after he learned the location of Anthony's gravesite, Jennings called Ray E. Wilson Jr., 31st Replacement Battalion, in San Diego and told him the news. Wilson had also carried a flamethrower and had been badly wounded himself.

With all the casualties and chaos of the battle for Iwo Jima, it wasn't unusual for men not to know what happened to those who were killed and weren't easily identified. Apparently Pfc Anthony's remains, like those of many others, weren't identified for years, and those with whom they served never knew what had happened to them.

Caloud said Anthony, who was originally buried on Iwo Jima, then moved to Saipan, and other unknowns were brought to Manila after the burials in the Punchbowl were completed because the Identification lab was still in operation and all unknowns were taken there. And when the families elected for overseas burial, the men were buried in Manila rather than being taken back to Hawaii for burial.

Anthony had joined the Marine Corps in July of 1942. After boot camp, he first joined an artillery outfit, then volunteered for the paramarines and after training was shipped to New Caledonia. From there he went to Guadalcanal to stage for operations further north in the Solomon Islands and landed on Vella La Vella, then saw combat on Bougainville, including the Koairi Beach Raid.

Back in the States, he was assigned to I/3/26 and left for his second Pacific tour where he was killed on March 3, 1945. Fellow Marines Pvt Morris H. Shelton and Pfc Edward L. Speer made statements to 1stLt W.B. Riley; LTC P. Root Jr., USN Medical Corps; and LtCol R. Fagan in April 1945 that they saw Pfc Anthony killed and saw his body about five minutes after his death. They said the only things they could identify were the raider boots he was wearing and the flamethrower.

It wasn't until March 1959, 14 years after he had been killed, that Pfc Anthony's mother, Eva T. Anthony of Wyckhoff, N.J., and family were notified that his remains had been identified in Manila, then buried in Manila American Cemetery that year.

Thoughts on future of 5th Marine Division Association

I would like to share my thoughts on the future of the 5th Marine Division Association, of which I am a lifetime Associate member.

I am the oldest son of LtCol John A. Butler, CO 1/27, who was KIA on D+14, and have attended a number of 5th Division reunions. The first I attended was the 1990 reunion in New Orleans, which was my dad's hometown. That was a truly special event as my mother, my dad's brothers, and my brother, Morey, also attended. I also attended reunions in Philly (1992), West Palm Beach (2000), Washington, D.C. (2008), and Gulfport (2010), which my brother Morey attended and contributed greatly to its success by working closely with the host and sponsors, Leonard and Celine Nederveld.

Each of these reunions was special, and I certainly understand why they are so important to the 5th Marine Division survivors of Iwo Jima. Ideally, they should go on forever, but the reality is they are becoming harder and harder to sustain.

Iwo Jima Marines, who are the heart and soul of the Association, are reaching the end of the line. The taps section grows longer with each passing year and ageing issues make it ever harder for many members to travel. Members willing and able to do the hard work of sponsoring, coordinating and hosting the annual reunion are also in short supply. The list of those who have the health and means to attend and support these annual events grows shorter and shorter.

Vietnam-era Marines who served in the 26th or 27th Marines are not joining the Association in sustainable numbers. Many of these veterans connect more with the parent divisions (1st & 3rd) to which they were attached.

Sons and daughters of 5th Division Marines, who have become Associate members are insufficient to sustain the organization.

The time has come to consider an alternative, and one is suggested.

That alternative is to consider a place at the table with the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) at its annual reunion and symposia. IJAA has a sound foundation of Iwo vets, historians and a growing number of legacy members that includes sons and daughters of

Iwo Jima veterans. IJAA enjoys strong support from the USMC and the USMC heritage museum, and currently includes five 5th Marine Division Association members among its board. The founder of IJAA was Gen Fred Haynes of the 28th Marines, whose widow, Bonnie, is a board member of IJAA.

Currently the IJAA event is held in February around the Iwo Jima D-Day anniversary in D.C., but plans for the future include moving the event. Future sites being considered are San Antonio, New Orleans and San Diego.

A handful of 5th Division Association Marines already attend the annual IJAA event, and the Association has offered the 5th Marine Division Association its own activity center at the annual reunion.

The 5th Marine Division Board should consider the IJAA offer to provide for a reunion site at the annual IJAA reunion and symposium.

The 5th Division BAR on the Beach monument at the Marine Corps Heritage Center is a forever reminder of the legacy of the 5th Marine Division established at Iwo Jima.

Last year's dedication of the BAR on the Beach was coordinated with the IJAA and was part of the 2010 IJAA event.

Hopefully, that initiative will be followed up in the future by having 5th Division reunions at the annual IJAA gathering.

– John Butler, Marine veteran
Tampa, Fla.

Iwo Jima tour a great experience for deceased veteran's son

My dad (who had the same name; he was Jr. and I'm the III) would never talk about Iwo Jima. However, after he died in 1991, I found a treasure trove of USMC maps, letters of commendation, etc., at the bottom of a trunk in the garage.

When I later heard about the Military Historical Tours' "Reunion of Honor," I had to go (and my wife, Barbara, was nice enough to accompany me).

... It was one of the best experiences of my life. Thank you!

– Robert H. Scott
Minneapolis, Minn.



[1] Robert Frazier, Carnegie, Okla. (Dec.); [2] John B. Smith, Vick, Ark. (Dec.); [3] Jim Morris; [4] Bill Jones, Garland, Texas (Dec.); [5] not recognized; [6] (first name unknown) Johnson, Sidney, Ohio; [7] Leon Hodge, Marion, Ind. (Dec.); [8] Leonard Young of Oregon (Dec.); [9] Fred Abel (Japanese flag wrapped around his shoulders) (Dec.); [10] Eddie Cash of Illinois (opening can of chow) (Dec.); [11] (first name unknown) Olson; [12] a French name that sounds like “Des Rouffet”? (Dec.); [13] ships off shore. Original photo taken by Raymond A. Dooley (D/2/28) with Bill Young’s camera (Company D drill instructor) on top of Mt. Suribachi immediately after the flag raising Feb. 23, 1945.

Daughter shares photo that includes her father on Mt. Suribachi

Enclosed is a copy of this (above photo) taken by (D/2/28) Marine Raymond Dooley on top of Mt. Suribachi immediately after the “flag raising” Feb. 23, 1945. I was not aware of this photo until after my dad, Fred Abel (D/2/28), passed away Feb. 23, 2006, exactly 61 years after that proud day in Marine Corps history.

Coincidentally, I was also born on Feb. 23, 1951 — “Two Jima Day” as Daddy always called it.

Thankfully, the photo was still in the envelope it was mailed in bearing the address of the sender, Raymond Dooley. I immediately wrote to him and his wife, Liz. They sent me a page identifying the Marines in the photo and a statement confirming the date and location the photo was taken.

Note the individual Japanese flags, one wrapped around my dad’s (#9) left arm and another worn as an apron by Jim Morris (#3).

I was thrilled when I first saw my dad in this picture. I wanted to share it with these brave men or anyone who may know them. I felt the Marine reunions and

publications would be an avenue where this might be accomplished.

Leatherneck Magazine editor Walt Ford has accepted the photo for “future publication.” A copy is also in the Raymond Dooley Collection at the Marine National Archives in Quantico, Va. It is also in the Fred Able Collection, along with a story I wrote and photos of my dad’s military years — recently accepted by the Marine National Archives. Our family retains the original photo given to my dad by Mr. Dooley.

– Connie Abel
475 Calistoga Circle
Fremont, CA 94536
510-790-2944

Editor’s Note: *Anyone wanting to donate letters, diaries, photo and military personnel papers regarding a Marine’s experience can contact Archives and Special Collections; Library of the Marine Corps; 2040 Broadway St.; Quantico, VA 22134.*

A story of two brothers who reunited during Iwo Jima battle

It was the first or second week of March 1945 on Iwo Jima that I, Alfred W. Jennings (I/3/26), and my older brother, Clyde W. Jennings (HQ/2/9), were both on Iwo Jima at the same time.

Both of our units were off of the line for a rest. I asked permission to go see if I could find my brother. The 9th Marines were on our right side, next to my unit.

I found my brother's buddy in their foxhole. He told me to stay and wait, that Clyde was there somewhere. While we were waiting, he said, "Let's eat your brother's peaches. He was saving them for a special day."

We opened the can of peaches and were sitting there enjoying them when Clyde came back. He had been out looking for me.

The first thing he saw was four big feet and his can of peaches. We were in the foxhole, under a shelter half.

"Who the hell is eating my peaches?" he yelled.

"Who the hell cares?" I shot back.

When he saw it was his kid brother, everything was OK. We visited about 30 minutes. Then I had to return to my own unit.

After the battle was over, we both left Iwo Jima. Neither of us received any injuries or wounds.

Our oldest brother, Travis L. Jennings, was a medic in the Army and was stationed in the South Pacific

while we were on Iwo Jima. He didn't get injured or wounded, either.

– Alfred W. Jennings, I/3/26
Arvada, Colo.

Member directory was useful

Just finished re-reading the article on Bert Clayton (*Spearhead*, Summer 2011). He was a great guy, always on the job. And I wholeheartedly backed him on his endeavor to have the BAR on the Beach at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

I don't have any ideas about acquiring past copies of *Spearhead*, but I'm going to give former editor Greg Emery (5th MED) a call. He may have an idea.

It has been more than five years since the *Spearhead* membership directory was printed. I think it was in Raleigh that I made a motion to have another issue printed, but I don't think the powers that be wanted it to be voted on. At one time, it was standing procedure that we printed a new one every two years. Since that time, we've spent a lot of dollars on other projects that don't seem as worthy.

Since we can only refer back to 2004 to the one then-secretary Bert Clayton had published for the names of past presidents and locations of the past five reunions, wouldn't it at least be possible to print that information from 2005-2010 in the next issue of *Spearhead News*?

– Walt O'Malley, E/2/27
Clinton, Mass.

PATROL'S CLIMB

Continued from page 2

up, and several of them wrote to me that Sgt Robert Whitehead, also from our 3rd platoon, had climbed to the top of Suribachi on D+3. Whitehead, a former ParaMarine, too, was awarded the Silver Star. He was badly wounded the day before my own wounding on March 12. I was with him when he was hit in the stomach, as we were in the Kitano Point area.

One of our Company I members said Whitehead simply kept going by himself when we reached the foot of Suribachi, probably an hour or two before Jones took us on patrol. The member said that when Whitehead came down, he told him he had seen nothing of any Japs on his way up or down. On our patrol, we saw nothing, and we neither received nor fired a shot.

This could be the source of the item criticized by the reviewer.

Editor's note: *There are no plans to publish a member directory at this time. However, here is a list of past presidents and reunion locations from 2005-10:*

2005 – Jack Depew (HS/26), Philadelphia, Pa.

2006 – John Huffhines (H/3/13), Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas

2007 – George Cattelona (L/4/13), Raleigh, N.C.

2008 – Ken Watterson (27th Marines, Vietnam), Washington, D.C.

2009 – Ivan Hammond (5th JASCO), Houston, Texas

2010 – Leonard Nederveld (E/2/27), Biloxi, Miss.

We've received back issues of Spearhead News back into the 1980s and are still looking for a complete set, dating back to the founding of the Association, to make available to the Marine Corps Archives in Quantico. Trustee Walter Musch believes he may have nearly a complete set, but we're still accepting issues.



FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")



GARRETT, Robert W. **I-1-28** 10/07/11
 LYTTLE, John **H-3-28** 11/06/11
 KEENER, Phillip K. **A-1-26** 09/22/11
 KESSEL, Joseph B. **C-1-26** 03/09/10
 RUH, Victor G. **5TH SIG** 05/23/11
 SCHMACHER, Herbert T. **F-2-27** 11/06/11



Editor's Note: Apologies to readers and especially to Charles J. Kadlecek, D-2-36, whose name was incorrectly included in the Summer 2011 Final Muster. Kadlecek wrote, "Unless there was another Marine with the same name as mine, the Final Muster is in error! I am still very much alive!"

WELCOME NEW LIFE MEMBERS

CAWTHON, Billy Joe **B-1-27**

PERSHEY, Marcella B. **ASSOC**
(Wife of Francis H. Heenan HQ-2-27)

TEBBETTS, George "Birdie" **A-1-27**

Secretary's Corner

During the Branson reunion, the Board of Trustees appointed me Association secretary. I look forward to taking on this role for the Fifth Marine Division Association. My parents, Quinto (H/3/26) and Doris De Santis, brought me and my brother to Chicago for my first reunion around 1976. I have been to many reunions since then. The men of the 5th and their families have been great role models and sources of inspiration for me. I continue to treasure the stories and friendships that come from my association with the Association. I am committed to assisting it and the members, as long as the Marines of the Association and their families still want to stay connected.

Ted and Joyce Overgard deserve a big thank you for their time and dedication. They have worked tirelessly to keep the paperwork and finances, organized member rosters and final musters accurate, and the Association running. Thank you, Ted and Joyce ... now go take that train trip with the freed-up time.

– Tony De Santis
Secretary

BELOW, CMC GEN "JIM" CONWAY & TWO VETS. RIGHT, 5TH MARDIV MEMORIAL ON MT. SURIBACHI'S SUMMIT.



67TH IWO JIMA "REUNION OF HONOR" 9-16 MAR 2012

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) 67th "Reunion of Honor", the historic reunion coordinated by MHT for the IJAA will be headquartered at the Outrigger Resort Hotel on Guam. A chartered United Airline jet will take

the veterans, their families, educators, & historians back to the "Black Sands" and the moving joint commemoration ceremony for the campaign's fallen warriors. As in past years, there will be an Iwo Jima Battle Symposium & Banquet on Guam before our return. Please join us for a stirring reunion with brethren & family.

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WOODBRIDGE, VA 22193-5285

703-590-1295 * FAX 703-590-1292

MHTOURS@MILTTOURS.COM * WWW.MILTTOURS.COM

"IT IS TIME TO WALK THE BLACK SANDS AGAIN!"



BRANSON REUNION

Continued from page 1

and had a private audience with the entertainer. After she talked about her background as a Swedish immigrant who moved to the United States with her parents after World War II, appreciating the country and the freedom the military helped provide, she answered questions and interacted with the audience about growing up in the Chicago suburbs and attending Northwestern University.

One man asked her if she remembered a party at a mutual friend's they both attended when she was at the university. She remembered. Another man, a Vietnam veteran, told her he'd seen her in Vietnam when she came with Bob Hope to entertain the troops. She talked about her trips to Vietnam and how much she appreciated the opportunity to help entertain the troops.

Just before the session was over, Association President Tom Kalus took a T-shirt with a picture of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi on the back and presented it to her in appreciation of her entertainment for veterans. She accepted the shirt, leaned down and gave him a hug.



Above: Ann-Margret on stage in Branson, Mo., during the Fifth Marine Division Reunion in October. At bottom: Members of the Association attend the annual memorial service prior to boarding the Branson Belle showboat for a luncheon cruise.

Members also stopped in the reunion hospitality room daily at the Grand Plaza Hotel, toured Old Branson and visited the Veterans Museum, which includes the names of those who have given their lives for our freedoms since World War I and is “a national tribute to the brave men and women who defended our liberties during the 20th century.”

In the museum a double column of 50 bronze-casted men with full uniform, gear and weapons surge forward in the WWII centerpiece. The work, representing those who served from all 50 states, was created by internationally known sculptor Fred Hoppe Jr. Each serviceman “is modeled after an actual combat soldier, one from each of the 50 states, with the man’s likeness and name. Leading the charge up the beach is

Fred’s father, the late Fred Hoppe Sr., a highly decorated war hero.”

Association member George Paulson (C/1/28) who attended the reunion, represents his home state of Nebraska. Senator Bob Dole represents his home state of Kansas. See www.veteransmemorialbranson.com/inside.html for more information about the museum and the bronze casts of the servicemen.

On Saturday, members went to a nearby park for the traditional Memorial Service for those who sacrificed their lives on Iwo Jima and through the years, then boarded the showboat, Branson Belle, for a cruise around Table Rock Lake, lunch and another show – this time a musical and a comedienne.

The evening banquet ended the reunion.

Business Meeting of the Fifth Marine Division 62nd Reunion at Branson, Missouri ~ October 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Association President LtCol Tom Kalus. He announced that Tony De Santis was selected as secretary at the Executive Trustee meeting.

Minutes of the 2010 meeting were read by Joyce Overgard, Association secretary. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer’s Report: Ted Overgard stated that the Association has \$65,000 and 50 trays of gold (valued in the past at \$60,000 and now worth \$80,000) in last year’s report. The present report is questionable at this time.

At the Tucson meeting, Tom made a motion for the 5th Marine Division to have a plaque at the Punch Bowl in Memory Lane. That motion was approved, and \$5,000 was set aside at that time. Today, Tom made a motion to rescind and to not have a plaque at the Punch Bowl. Dick Courson seconded the motion. Motion was approved to rescind the plaque.

New Business: President Kalus announced that a committee will be formed to create a new constitution and bylaws. He stated that Ralph Simoneau will be chairman, and he (Kalus) will provide assistance to him. Barbara Harris volunteered to assist, and Simoneau suggested that Bob Hanson be included.

President Kalus made a motion that the Board of Trustees are as follows: Warren Musch, Ivan Hammond, Col Guy Straton, Penny Pauletto, and Tony De Santis. Results of voting were 31 yes, 1 no.

Secretary Tony De Santis stated his first task will be to have the 5th Marine Division Association compliant with Robert’s Rules of Order and tax compliance with the IRS. One of the members stated that a Marine Corps League was fined \$7,000 for not being in compliance with the IRS.

The hospitality room fee was questioned by Mike Dietz. President Kalus said that the fee would be discontinued. All members agreed.

George Paulson discussed using Robert’s Rules of Order. No action was taken.

The reunion for 2012 was discussed. President Kalus suggested the western area of the U.S. as many members live in that area. Tom said he would be hosting the reunion again next year in Reno, Nevada, at the The Silver Legacy during the last week of August. Room rate will be \$65, plus tax, for a total of \$75. Parking will be free. A vote was taken: Yes, 20 votes; no, 5 votes. Motion carried.

Bill Behana made a motion that the 2013 reunion be held in San Diego, Calif., and he would host it. The motion was seconded by Dick Courson. A vote was taken; Yes, 11 votes; no, 7 votes. Approved.

President Kalus announced that the Ladies’ Auxiliary Silent Auction will end at 7 p.m., with the proceeds being donated to The Semper Fi Wounded Marines Fund.

He then thanked everyone who assisted with the reunion. A motion was made to adjourn. Motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned.

Working to keep the memory of Marine sacrifices alive

Like thousands of other Fifth Division Marines, retired Union City, Tenn., businessman Ed Youngblood landed on Iwo Jima Feb. 19, 1945. Prior to leaving the island on March 26, Youngblood said he “stood among all of the crosses of the Fifth Marine Division in our cemetery” and pledged to all of his “Marine Brothers, that as long as I lived, their deaths would never be forgotten, as I would remind all America of their sacrifices.”

And he has kept that promise throughout the last 66 years in a number of ways. But when he retired, he started a drive to erect a large, black, polished monument showing the flag raising, hand-etched by Georgia artist Zac Evans, on one side and engraved with words on the other side honoring the memory of the Marines who died on Iwo Jima and other battles during World War II. The monument sits on the Obion County Courthouse grounds in Union City, Tenn., and was dedicated on Aug. 15, 2006.

A few months later, Youngblood started another drive to raise money for a smaller monument for the names of the 27 Medal of Honor recipients on Iwo Jima – 22 Marines, four Navy corpsmen and one Navy officer. Only one, Youngblood said in October, is still alive, Hershel “Woody” Williams of West Virginia.

That monument also sits on the courthouse grounds, which Youngblood said was dedicated on Oct. 23, 2007. Fifth Division Medal of Honor recipient Jack Lucas, the youngest man to ever receive the award who later died on June 6, 2008, came from Hattiesburg, Miss., for the dedication with his wife, Ruby.

Both monuments were featured in the February 2008 *Leatherneck* magazine.

Not quite finished with mem-

orial projects for the courthouse grounds, on which Youngblood said he has worked for five years to “beautify the grounds” close to the monuments, he has initiated another drive. His last, the 84-year-old man said. The plan is to erect three 3x5 flags (U.S., Tennessee and Marine Corps) close to the existing monuments; to purchase several sturdy benches to place at different locations on the courthouse grounds; and to purchase several Tulip-Popular trees in honor of all veterans – past, present and future.

In late October, Youngblood was still raising funds for those items and other things to beautify the courthouse grounds. Contributions can be made to the Iwo Jima Memorial Fund and mailed to Ed Youngblood, 1805 Wedgewood Drive, Union City, TN 38261.

– Ray Elliott



A monument honoring “Marine Brothers” who died for freedom stands on the Obion County Courthouse grounds in Union City, Tenn. Iwo Jima veteran Ed Youngblood, right, has made it a mission to help “remind all America of their sacrifices.” Pictured with Youngblood at the monument is local resident Mayor McGuire, left, and Medal of Honor recipient Jack Lucas, middle, now deceased.

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION UNIT CITATIONS

IWO JIMA

U.S. Navy Presidential Unit Citation
19 February – 28 March 1945

Navy Unit Commendation
19 February 1945 – 28 March 1945



VIETNAM

U.S. Navy Presidential Unit Citation
23 July – 15 September 1967
20 January – 1 April 1968

Meritorious Unit Commendation
1 May 1968 – 31 August 1968

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm
1967-1968

Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation
1967-1968

Gettysburg of the Pacific

Iwo Jima Feb. 19-March 26, 1945

A special tribute to the United States Marines of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions, who made the Supreme Sacrifice at Iwo Jima, and to those Marines, now deceased, who had served honorably in one of WWII's grimmest campaigns.

By Charles T. Sehe, Former FT3 USN, USS Nevada, Iwo Jima & Okinawa

Bomber crews saw hopes for their safe return fade,
When their engines were crippled on a bombing raid.
Saipan-Tinian could not be reached nonstop.
Needed: closer, fighter-protected rest stop.
Within Kazan Retto, lay "Sulfur Island,"
With hills, gullies, volcano, and lava sand.
Aerial photos have shown it fortified;
Five and one-half miles long; a few miles wide.

A frontal assault claiming this real estate
Could cost the Marines a high casualty rate.
At Utithi, the Fifth Fleet hoisted anchor;
Eight hundred ships set course for Iwo's front door.
Warships, support ships—U.S.S. NEVADA avant garde.
Cruised toward their sectors prepared to bombard.
Three days of intense naval fire had followed.
(Ten days the Marines requested was disallowed.)

Each salvo hurled lava-gray clouds midair;
Fragments of gun mounts and bunkers flew elsewhere.
Japanese still controlled the summit's high ground.
Awaiting the landing crafts' movement inbound.

From the hills, enemy gunfire would outpour,
Between the second wave and the first ashore.
Splintered boats, tanks; bloodied bodies lay in bay;
Marine casualties rose steadily each day.

Bursting star shells lit Iwo like thunder cracks,
Stopping nightly Japanese counter-attacks.
Enemy mortars and rockets proved their stand;
Left hundreds torn bodies half-buried in sand.
Summit fell only by flaming cave by cave;
Its lava dust fused with blood from the brave.
Assault for Suribachi ended in loud cheers;
Transcendent moment also brought silent tears.

The "three-day" battle lasted many more.
Each encounter led the Marines to death's door.
Courage, Honor, Sacrifice, in this campaign,
Bonded with red stains left in the gray terrain.
Leaving behind scorched caves with blackened debris.
Their intrepid spirit attests the Corps' fidelity;
Valorous sacrifices enshrined for eternity.

Reflections on a Veteran

The following two essays each received first place in the statewide Illinois Center for the Book's "Reflections on a Veteran" essay competition: Jessica Elliott, then a sophomore, in the high school division; and sister Caitlin Elliott, then an eighth grader, in the middle school division.

It's the first time sisters have independently placed first in the program. They each presented their winning essays at the Sept. 14 Constitution Day Ceremony at the Richard J. Daley Plaza in Chicago, hosted by Secretary of State Jesse White, a 101st Airborne veteran.

By Jessica Elliott

My best friend is graduating this weekend at the age of 18. I am so close to her that I feel like the two years separating us are only on paper, and do not really exist. It is almost impossible for me to imagine that nearly 65 years ago, young men her age, and even younger were preparing to land on far off islands to fight a war that had inspired them so much that they left their families and educations behind. One such person was Cpl. Jim Kelly of the 5th Marine Division who, among other things, was present for every moment of the Iwo Jima battle.

As I interviewed Mr. Kelly, I could barely open my mouth to ask the next question because I was so taken aback.

I have known him for many years as a kind and humorous man who belonged to the Marine Corps League in our town. It struck me that this man quietly walked among us, enjoying a relatively simple life, yet he had such an incredible story.

He told me many things – some shocking, some funny, some heartbreaking ... and some haunting. He recounted all of this in a very relaxed and accepting way, but he seemed angered and disillusioned at the lack of appreciation and awareness that my generation has for those who have served our country. He believes we are disconnected from what he and his fellow servicemen went through because this history – his history – is taught as an impersonal and distant event. I understood what Mr. Kelly meant because anything I ever learned about Iwo Jima in school was from a brief description at the end of a World War II chapter in my history book. It was merely information to memorize temporarily in order to score well on the next test. There is a completely different side of the story – the



Essay winner Jessica Elliott (center) poses with the Iwo Jima veteran she wrote about, Jim Kelly, Fifth Marine Division Service Battalion, of Urbana, Ill. (left), along with Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White in Chicago last September.

reality – that isn't written in a textbook.

I believe this troubles Mr. Kelly because we are the young people for whom he was fighting, for our freedom to attend school and to receive a quality education, which is the key to achieving any dream a person can imagine.

WWII veterans are now 85 to 90 years old, and they will not be around forever. They have endless stories to share with us that will teach my generation the kind of lessons that can never be printed in a history book. The owners of these invaluable lessons are all around us. All they need is someone to truly listen to their wisdom, appreciate their dedication, and exhibit the qualities they fought to uphold so many years ago.

"Think what we built for you," Mr. Kelly said, "and don't take it for granted."

In a couple of years, it will be me who will be graduating at the age of 18. I will begin life anew, independent in a world filled with possibilities, filled

with dreams that I have the freedom to realize because of the selfless service of men like Mr. Kelly. I will begin this new life with a dedication to uphold honor and justice, and a determination to make the world a better place for future generations. By following the example set by these veterans, I will have the inspiration to work toward great things, perhaps things great enough for a high-school student to want to interview me when I am 90 years old.



Essay winner Caitlin Elliott (center) poses with the World War II Marine veteran she wrote about, Tom Henderson, also of Urbana, Ill. (left), along with Secretary White at the Chicago ceremony.

By Caitlin Elliott

Growing up surrounded by veterans certainly has impacted my life in a number of ways. I have a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by veterans. Their willingness to serve their country allows me to have the freedom that I do today.

In a civilian's eyes, veterans are the definition of heroes. Their courage and determination allows us to pursue our dreams and achieve our goals because of the rights they have defended. In a veteran's eyes, however, it is only a matter of right and wrong. The right thing to do is to honor their country.

Being raised to have the upmost respect for those who serve, I can't imagine my life if not for veterans. I've learned to show my gratitude openly and often. My interview with Tom Henderson, a World War II veteran, only reinforced those beliefs.

I have known Mr. Henderson for many years now, but in this interview I saw another, deeper side of him, full of memories of the war, reflections and appreciation of fellow veterans. It was meaningful to me to know

what experiences he has had and to see how much he, and other veterans, have given to their communities and their country.

In times of war, the general population's feeling is shock. Everything changes in the world around us, and there is confusion and hesitation. Veterans take initiative and respond. There are no doubts, no regrets. The responsibility to respect and, therefore, defend this country is clear.

Every night, I am able to go to sleep knowing that I am safe and at home. However, for these veterans who were miles away from home, every day was a day of survival. They always had to be ready and do what they were told to do promptly. I can't imagine the kind of pressure and fear they must have felt in that kind of situation. Just hearing about it made me thankful for my life and what is so often taken for granted.

Constantly depending on others fighting alongside of them, strong friendships are formed. One story that specifically stood out for me during the interview was about a close friend of Mr. Henderson's. His buddy had accidentally shot himself and was buried. His body was then exhumed and moved twice. Mr. Henderson and some others

who served with him did not know where their friend's final resting place was. After research was done many years later, the gravesite was finally located. Simply knowing where his friend's grave was located was enough to bring closure and peace to a painful memory.

After being so brave and honorable, they return home. Glad to be reunited with family and friends, but also struggling to find jobs to support themselves. Although they may be home, the repercussions and aftermath from the war leave shortages of just about everything. Through all of the conflicts following the war, their service doesn't stop when the war does, but rather continues through organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. A night doesn't go by when they don't think of an event or a memory from all those years ago, far away from home.

I was particularly impressed by Mr. Henderson's great sense of respect for his country, his community, and the people around him.

**Iwo Jima Association of America
Reunion and Educational Symposium
February 16-19, 2012
Arlington and Quantico, Va.**

Highlights include:

Feb. 17 – National Museum of the Marine Corps Commemoration and Dedication
Wreath Laying Ceremony at Marine Corps War Memorial
Cocktail Reception

Feb. 18 – Symposium and Panel Discussion
Ladies Tour of the Home of the Commandant of the Marine Corps
Lunch with Guest Speaker
Reception and Banquet

For more information and to register: www.afr-reg.com/ijaa or call 757-625-6401

Registration deadline: Jan. 17

WEST COAST ...

**Iwo Jima Memorial Service & Banquet
for the 67th Anniversary of the Marines Landing on Iwo Jima
February 16-18, 2012
Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif.**

Veterans of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Marine Divisions and Support Units are invited.

Highlights include:

Feb. 16 – Camp Pendleton Tour

Feb. 17 – MCRD Tour

Feb. 18 – Memorial Service and Banquet
Guest speaker: LtCol Paul McLellan, USMC (Ret.), Navy Cross recipient for actions on Iwo Jima

For more information: Ticket Chair Gail Chatfield at gchatsan@gmail.com or 858-792-8897

By Dammit, We're Marines! — Veterans' Stories of Heroism, Honor and Humor in World War II on the Pacific Front

By Gail Chatfield

Wyndham House, 331 pages

By Col Steve Fisher, USMC (Ret.)

For the North County Times, San Diego, Calif. - Jan. 11, 2009

Stephen Ambrose once said, “As I sit at my computer, or stand at the podium, I think of myself as sitting around the campfire after a day on the trail, telling stories that I hope will have the members of the audience, or the readers, leaning forward just a bit, wanting to know what happens next.”

In “By Dammit, We're Marines! --- Veterans' Stories of Heroism, Horror and Humor in World War II on the Pacific Front,” a collection of remembrances from Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen, author Gail Chatfield gathers us around the campfire with 52 heroes of the World War II Pacific campaigns.

Culled from Chatfield's interviews with these representatives of the “greatest generation,” she presents unique perspectives on the war as seen through the eyes of officers and enlisted personnel, cousins and neighbors, frontline combat and support troops, corpsmen and chaplains.

Their stories provide detailed, firsthand accounts of some of the most horrific fighting in that theater. They take us through America's entry into the war; their induction, training and deployment; combat; and reintegration into a demobilizing society. The short tales are candid, poignant and sprinkled with humor.

Many of the combat stories focus on the Iwo Jima campaign, the battle immortalized by the famous flag-raising photo taken by Joe Rosenthal on Mount Suribachi. The veterans in “By Dammit, We're Marines!” openly speak of their fear in battle on Iwo Jima, where approximately one-third of all Marines killed in World War II died. Looking back, the Marines try to assess why they survived, and what enabled them to endure and accomplish the mission despite fierce enemy resistance. Some credit the training. Some owe their survival to their buddies.

Whatever it was, they certainly weren't fighting for the money: One of the Marines calculated that he fought on Iwo Jima for \$1.53 a day. They fought tenaciously and prevailed because, in the words of retired Sgt. Maj. “Iron Mike” Mervosh, “By dammit, we're Marines!”

At the time, most didn't know why they were ordered to take the tiny island of Iwo Jima --- they didn't need to know why --- until the first crippled B-29 airplanes returned from bombing Japan, and the pilots found a safe haven on which to land them.

While many initially enlisted for the challenge or to fulfill a patriotic duty, in combat they kept fighting for the

Marine to their left or right, for the Marine who counted on them to protect their flanks. And, when wounded, they knew they had to get back in the fight as soon as possible.

Retired LtGen Lawrence Snowden summed it up best. After being wounded and evacuated to Guam for medical care, he found a Marine colonel and said, “I would like to go back to Iwo Jima --- that is my family up there.’ I hadn't seen my wife or infant son for two years by that time, but my family was on Iwo.”

When I was boxing at the Naval Academy, our coach, Emerson Smith, once spoke of his years in the Navy during World War II. Just as many of Chatfield's veterans did, Smith married just before deploying to the South Pacific for several years. He once confided to me that the scariest experience he had was at the end of the war: He had arranged to meet his wife in the lobby of a hotel and was afraid that he would not recognize her.

I highly recommend this book. These warriors cum schoolteachers, librarians, husbands and fathers are part of this country's legacy. Chatfield, whose father served in the Marines, says it best as she ends: “Without Marines, we're toast!”

As our nation is again engaged in a global conflict, Chatfield provides a window to our past, a look at the timeless horrors of war up close and personal, the sacrifices and dedication of our military and their families, and a chance to gather around the campfire.



Reprinted with permission. The book is \$23.95 and available online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble or through the author at gailchatfield.com. Fisher is a Vietnam veteran and retired U.S. Marine colonel who is working with the First Marine Expeditionary Force.

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