



# Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL  
PUBLICATION  
of the  
5TH MARINE  
DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION

**65TH ANNUAL REUNION - TAMPA, FL  
SEPTEMBER 8 -13, 2014**

**SAVE THE DATE**

## Meet new Association President John Butler

By John Butler

I was just 5 years old in August 1944, standing by my then-pregnant mom, sister Mary Jo and younger brother Morey, when the Marines of my dad's 1-27 passed by to board ships berthed alongside the San Diego embarkation port. Before boarding ship, Dad told us goodbye and, as events turned out, it was a final goodbye. But the memory of him and what he and his men, and the men of the 5th Marine Division did on Iwo Jima has remained with me.

Prior to that, because we did not see much of Dad at home in San Diego, Mom took my sister and me to Camp Pendleton to see him on several occasions. On one visit, I had the privilege of going to a field bivouac.

My recollection was that I went through a chow line with a mess kit and was instructed by my dad to remain in a nearby shelter-half tent after I finished eating until someone came and got me. I did not follow his orders and after finishing my chow, I went exploring on my



John and Kathleen Butler

own and promptly managed to get lost and stuck in a briar patch until rescued by some 1-27 Marines. My dad didn't bring me, but he was not too happy.

Though not a member of the 5th Marine Division, I carry and treasure a lifelong personal connection with the division, the association and every man who served with the 5th on Iwo Jima, and I am honored to serve

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**SPEARHEAD NEWS**

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**FOUNDING PRESIDENT**

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ANNUAL MEMBERS**

**Association Notes  
from the Secretary**

At the 5th Marine Division Association Reunion in San Diego in September, I was appointed secretary at the trustee meeting, and association trustee and Iwo Jima veteran Warren Musch was later appointed treasurer. As secretary, I hope to see the membership increase with veterans who were members of the reactivated 5th Marine Division who served in Vietnam and the 28th that stayed at Camp Pendleton; surviving spouses, sons, daughters and grandchildren of the Iwo Jima veterans; and others who have an interest in our military heritage. That’s the future of the association, and it’s the task we all need to work at to realize.

As noted on the membership application on the back of this newsletter, all annual membership dues expire every year on Dec. 31. This will be the last issue annual members receive unless a dues payment is made. So I encourage you to send in your payment while it’s on your mind, but no later than March 31, so you won’t be dropped from the membership list.

Please invite a few others to join the association, as well. Use the form on the back page and mail to my attention at 2609 N. High Cross Road, Urbana, IL 61802. Also, let me know of any changes of address.

Memberships end for deceased members, but surviving spouses may continue as memorial members. Other surviving relatives are welcome and encouraged to join in their own names. It’s a great way to keep the association going and to honor their memories and the sacrifices these veterans made for our freedom.

The association’s current president, John Butler, is putting together a great reunion in Tampa, Fla., in September 2014. John can be reached by email at [jbutler813@verizon.net](mailto:jbutler813@verizon.net) if you have suggestions for the continuation of the association and how you’d like to see it move forward. The members are the ones who decide the future of the 5th Marine Division Association.

— **Ray Elliott**  
Secretary

***Archived issues of Spearhead News are  
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## THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



### Exaggerations notwithstanding, the future is now for FMDA

Back in 1897, scuttlebutt circulated that Mark Twain had died in London. Twain told a reporter, “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.”

Twain’s words have come to mind since I’ve been editing *Spearhead News* when it comes to the possible “death” of the 5th Marine Division Association that seems to be on the minds of some members.

Actually, there are very explicit terms for how the end may come. They are outlined in the Constitution of the 5th Marine Division Association that was approved at the annual reunion at Albuquerque, N.M., 18 July 1999:

#### *Article VIII: Inactivation*

*Section 1. This Association may be inactivated upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee and a two-thirds vote of the active members at convention.*

*Section 2. Upon inactivation, the assets of the Association shall be transferred to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation with the stipulation that the interest from such funds will be used to:*

- *Acquire the documents, books, pictures, artifacts, memorabilia and traditions of the 5th Marine Division;*
- *Encourage the collection, preservation and display of such historical artifacts by the Marine Corps museums under the cognizance of the History and Museum Division, Headquarters, United States Marine Corps;*
- *Encourage all efforts to publicize the historical heritage of the 5th Marine Division through the support of research, studies and publications of value to the official Marine Corps historical program.*

While that doesn’t mean the end has to come, with the age of the Iwo Jima veterans there’s no doubt that the time is near when a decision must be made. John Butler, a Marine veteran and the son of a Marine killed in action on Iwo Jima, agreed to take over the presidency and host the next reunion in Tampa, Fla.

The vice president is Kathleen Painton, whose father was also killed in action on Iwo Jima and lives on the big island of Hawaii. John and Kathy attend reunions across the country and have been to Iwo Jima with Military Historical Tours. John is a board member of the Iwo Jima Association of American (IJAA), and Kathy is an associate member of both IJAA and the Camp Tarawa Marine Corps League and would like to see the old slop chute at the edge of Wimea turned into a small museum for future visitors.

So with two legacy members at the helm who lost fathers on Iwo Jima, I’m hopeful that the death of the association “is greatly exaggerated.”

I, too, have a valued interest in the association as a writer and sometime historian. I hope to see the association continue to perpetuate the legacy of what Iwo Jima veterans contributed to our freedom and national heritage, and that of the Marine veterans who served in Vietnam in the reactivated 5th Marine Division.

“What concerns me the most is the future of the association,” Kathy wrote soon after accepting the vice presidency. “Fewer Iwo Jima veterans are in attendance at the reunions each year, and without new membership, the association will be unable to continue into the future. I think it is imperative that we evaluate the importance of the association in our lives and reach an agreement as to what direction the association should take in the years ahead.”

As Kathy sees it, there are three options for the membership to consider: 1) Maintain the association as presently constituted; 2) Dissolve the 5th Marine Division Association entirely; or 3) Join forces with the Iwo Jima Association of America.

Both John and Kathy favor the first option, which will mean that legacy members and Vietnam veterans will need to step up and run the association – if that’s the decision of the membership. The second option would be a sad one, in my view. Neither John nor Kathy want to see that happen, either, but both see benefits in joining with the IJAA.

“The camaraderie we currently enjoy in the association could continue within the IJAA,” Kathy says.

These options will undoubtedly be considered at the September reunion in Tampa. And you, the association members, are the ones who will ultimately decide the association’s fate.

See you in Tampa. And until then, we look forward to hearing your ideas.

## **NEW PRESIDENT**

*Continued from page 1*

as association president for 2014. I will do all in my power to provide a memorable reunion event in Tampa.

While I didn't serve with the 26th, 27th or 13th Marines (when those regiments were re-activated and sent to Vietnam), nor with the 28th at Camp Pendleton, I knew some who did, including my old F-2-8 company commander, the late Col William F. Dabney, who led the reinforced India Company 3-26 in the epic defense of Hill 881 S during the 66-day siege at Khe Sanh. The defense of Khe Sanh and other fights during those tough years in Vietnam honored and added to the legacy and history of the 5th Marine Division, and those who served during that time should always be encouraged to join the association and participate in the reunions.

I was born in Quantico on July 30, 1939, when my dad was a company officer with the 5th Marines. Six months later, he was assigned as an attaché to the Dominican Republic, an old Marine Corps stomping ground during the early Banana Wars. He spoke fluent Spanish and did a superb job; but when the war broke out, he requested relief and assignment to the FMF.

When he was finally relieved and posted to the Command and Staff School in Quantico, the family followed. In late December 1943, after Dad completed the course, we departed for California on a long cross-country road trip in a Studebaker sedan. Dad reported to the just-forming 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in early January 1944 and was assigned to command 1-27.

For a while, the family lived in Oceanside before moving to San Diego. Just before shipping out, Dad bought a small home in Coronado, where we lived from the time he departed until several months after he was killed on Iwo.

I have memories of our cross-country trip and living in Oceanside, San Diego and Coronado. I also remember the sad day the telegram of my Dad's loss was received.

Mom later moved the family to Ft. Myers, Fla. I was graduated from Ft. Myers High School in 1956 with sights set on attending the Naval Academy and becoming a Marine officer. But since I was still only 16, I needed to be a year older and have additional academic preparation, so I went to Bullis Prep in Silver Springs, Md., for a year. I had a presidential appointment to the academy as the son of a deceased veteran, but I still had to pass the entrance exam.

Just after my 17th birthday, I enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and drilled with the 13th Infantry Battalion at the old Naval Gun Factory and Shipyard on the Potomac River.

When I entered the academy in July 1957, I was discharged as a private, USMCR, and appointed a midshipman, USN, and was graduated from the academy in June 1961 and commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Completing Basic School in early February 1962, I was assigned as a rifle platoon leader with School Demonstration Troops at Quantico. This allowed me to remain with the Quantico Marine track team, which I had made during Basic School.

In early August 1962, I received orders to report to the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune where I was assigned as a rifle platoon leader in F-2-8. In October 1962, 2-8 deployed during the Cuban Missile Crisis as an assault battalion for the planned invasion of Cuba. Fox Company was assigned to an LST loaded with amtracs for the planned landing just east of Havana.

As we steamed south toward the Florida Straights, I reflected that I was going to participate in an assault landing not unlike my dad's 1-27 on Iwo Jima 17 years earlier. The only difference being that we were to go ashore in enclosed modern versions of the old amtracs used at Iwo, and we would be wearing flak jackets and carrying M-14s.

Instead of landing in Cuba, we returned to Camp Lejeune for a rehearsal landing and intensive training for our scheduled deployment to the Mediterranean. Following the Med deployment in June 1963, I was assigned as the battalion's 81-mortar platoon leader. But shortly thereafter, I received orders to attend a special counterintelligence course for officers at the Army's Fort Holabird in Maryland. I was given a secondary MOS as a counterintelligence officer and returned to Camp Lejeune for temporary assignments in intelligence with the 2nd Division until I received orders for a 13-month FMF tour as team commander for the 7th Counterintelligence Team, attached to the 1st Marine Air Wing then based in Iwakuni, Japan.

During this FMF unaccompanied tour, I also volunteered for a month-long temporary assignment from July-August 1964 to an Army advisory group in Vietnam's I Corps where the Marine Corps later deployed and fought a long, hard and difficult war over many years. I experienced the guerilla war as was then being fought between the Army of Vietnam (ARVN) and Viet Cong guerrillas in the hills and villages of

Southern I Corps. I was one of two Americans with this very good and aggressive ARVN battalion.

Returning stateside in May 1965, I was promoted to captain and assigned to the Marine Recruiting office in San Antonio, Texas. Then in September 1966, I resigned my regular commission to attend the University of Texas graduate school. I also joined the USMC Reserve's 4th Recon Battalion.

In July 1967, I began a management career in the maritime transportation business that was to take me to the Caribbean and then back to Florida, where for a number of years I worked with West India Line, as well as ports in Ft. Perce and Port Dania.

In mid-1995, I opened and operated a steamship agency in Tampa until 1997 when I took medical retirement to recover from complications as a result of brain surgery to de-bulk a large tumor pressing my brain stem. Over the years, I made a decent recovery, but it was necessary to recently have this surgery again. Fortunately, I have not had the severe complications I experienced the first time, and I anticipate smooth sailing ahead.

I still work part-time as a consultant with a steamship agency. And I do volunteer work with the nearby James Haley Veteran's Administration Hospital, and contribute to *The Spearhead News*. I am also a

board member of the Iwo Jima Association of America.

I visited Iwo Jima in February 1965 when I joined a flight of Iwo veterans then on active duty in Japan and Okinawa who went to Iwo for a 20th anniversary ceremony; and in 2005, I joined my youngest brother, Clinton, for the 65th Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima, sponsored by Military Historical Tours.

I married Kathleen, a hometown girl, in 1963. We have passed 50 years of marriage and have four children and seven grandchildren. Kath graduated from the University of Florida in 1962. She was primarily a homemaker until our kids left the nest, after which she acquired a number of specialties in the field of education, and recently retired from nearly 25 years as an educator. She devotes most of her time to our grandchildren, which are scattered from Florida's East Coast to Montana. I go to Montana every winter to see my high school-aged grandkids play basketball.

Kath and I welcome all to Tampa next September. We hope for a good turnout of the association's Vietnam veterans and heritage members, along with our Iwo vets, to celebrate the 5th Marine Division.

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*Editor's Note: John Butler's father, LtCol John A. Butler, Jr., Battalion Commander of 1-27 was KIA on Iwo Jima on 4 March 1945 and received the Navy Cross posthumously.*

## LETTERS

### Another weighs in on flag, H&S-4-13 action on Iwo

[Regarding] Ernie Peterson's flag [in] the summer 2012 edition of *The Spearhead* – I was a part of the little machine gun section of H&S-4-13. I guess it's time I wrote.

Roger L. Emory (I-3-13) did some good detective work. I know there are very few survivors left in our gun section. I still remember Ernie printing all of our names on that flag that was in Nagasaki, Japan. Ernie was a very good buddy.

We trained on the 30- and 50-caliber machine gun. Some of the guys in the Howitzer firing batteries never knew we had guns of this sort in the 4th Battalion. Some of our group sailed to Iwo on the LST No. 399. It was a slow journey. On board was a platoon of Army ducks manned by African-American soldiers who were a nice group of GIs.

On arrival at Iwo, we had anchored off shore and on about D+2, some of the ducks headed for the

beach. Ernie and a few of our buddies were on board. That group had two ducks shot out from under them, but they all made it safely on the third try. Those soldiers hauled ammo and supplies on the island.

On D+4, I finally made it ashore when the LST finally went ashore. I was on board 45 days before getting off. Upon landing, I was told the infantry had come and took our machine guns – I think because our guns were air-cooled. We had all that training and didn't get to use it.

Well, shortly thereafter, all of us non-essentials were rounded up, and we were sent up front with the infantry on the final mop-up. The enemy really put up a fight, with just a few surrendering. There were many close calls. I was assigned to H Company, 26th Regiment for this action. We had received no thanks or recognition. I would do it again, if I had to. I spent 32 days on the island – most of it spent with the infantry.

– Ray Wolf, H&S-4-13  
Barberton, Ohio

# 64th Reunion recap: Fun and fellowship

**By Kathy Painton**

The 5th Marine Division Association's 64th Reunion held in San Diego last Sept. 9-13 was an enjoyable experience. This was the fourth reunion I've attended, and I thought [President] Bill Behana and his reunion committee did an excellent job. They provided a pleasant venue in which to meet, planned excursions for the group, and also allowed time for individuals to explore the San Diego area on their own. The Handlery Hotel staff was very accommodating, the rooms were comfortable and the food was tasty.

I would estimate that there were between 60 and 70 people who attended the reunion. Some of the 20 veterans present were accompanied by family members, and there was a large number of legacy attendees who were honoring relatives who had fought on Iwo Jima. Other 5th Marine Division veterans stopped by during the week for daytime visits in the hospitality room, which was stocked with complimentary nuts, candies, beer, sodas and water.

As always, it was a pleasure to be in the presence of these men. I enjoyed listening to their stories, especially those that recounted their playful antics during training at Camp Tarawa.

George Boutwell (5th Medical Battalion) weighed only 122 pounds when he joined the Marine Corps at the age of 18. He told of drinking a pitcher of beer every day for about a month in an unsuccessful attempt to gain weight. He remembers the overnight picnics he and his friends had on the beach during their time at Camp Tarawa.

Barney Gruber was with the Pioneer Battalion in Hilo where he loaded and unloaded ships. The battalion was housed in a tent city at a former POW camp near the docks at Hilo Bay.

I had an opportunity to meet Tom Begay, one of the Navajo Code Talkers, and I was especially interested in hearing about the development of the code and the restrictions placed upon the men to maintain the secrecy of the code.



**A platoon of Marines march to graduation exercises Sept. 13 at MCRD, San Diego. Members of the association participating in the reunion attended the graduation. (Photo by Richard Carner)**



Twenty two Jima veterans and members of the Fifth Marine Division Association pose for a group photo during the banquet on Friday night that concluded the 64th annual reunion of the association. (Photo by Richard Carmer)

I also met Mike Mykris, a gentleman who was in the same company as my father (F-2-28). It was nice to spend time with Mike and his wife, Shirley, and to look at some of the pictures and memorabilia he had related to his wartime service.

One of the reunion excursions was a visit to the USS Midway. It was quite an adventure to tour the ship. Standing next to the planes on the flight deck gave me a good perspective of the ship's size and made me appreciate the skill necessary to successfully launch and land planes while at sea.

We also had the opportunity to view a graduation ceremony at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot. After the ceremony, we ate lunch in the chow hall and visited the base museum.

The banquet on Friday evening was quite nice.

Samuel 'Sal' Prestigiaco (C-1-26) sat at our table and shared his experiences training as a Marine paratrooper before the unit was disbanded. Sal made six jumps at an altitude of 1,000 feet and three jumps at 500 feet, but never made a jump in actual combat. Dan Zepeda, a WWII historian, set up a display at the back of the room for people to look at some of the items pertaining to Iwo Jima that he had collected. A dance band played background music as we ate, and a few couples even tried out their moves on the dance floor after dinner.

I thought the week was a very rewarding experience – seeing "old" friends I had met at previous reunions and meeting "new" friends who were attending their first reunion. I am already looking forward to traveling to Tampa in September 2014 for the next 5th Marine Division Association Reunion.



Welcome sign at the Handlery Hotel (left) and members outside the USS Midway during a tour on Tuesday of the reunion. (Photos by Kathleen Painton)



Iwo Jima veterans (from left to right) Harry McCauley, Allen Fontenot, Johnny Scarfo, Walter O'Malley and Al Pagoaga gather last October at the American Legion Post 3 in Alexandria, La. Their buddy Menard "Bull" Brouillette of nearby Pineville had organized the informal reunion but died Sept. 22. (Photo by Blane Faul)

## Veteran buddies gather in Alexandria, La.

By Jodi Belgard

[jbelgard@thetowntalk.com](mailto:jbelgard@thetowntalk.com)

It's likely that Menard "Bull" Brouillette would have been cracking jokes and slapping the backs of the guys who came in from across the country to be with him Saturday [Oct. 5, 2013].

The [former] Marine and World War II veteran arranged a reunion of the remaining men with whom he fought on Iwo Jima in 1945. The official reunion [was] set for San Diego, but Brouillette knew he wouldn't be able to make that trip. He pulled together an informal reunion at the American Legion Hall Post 3 in Alexandria, [La.], and everyone showed up but Brouillette.

He died Sept. 22 in his Pineville home.

"We came up here for our special reunion with our buddy, Bull," said Al Pagoaga of Boise, Idaho. "Bull made all the arrangements. We'd probably be cursing him for reason right now."

The men met when they were 19. They have a shared memory reel that most Americans would choose to forget.

They honored Bull, of whom a framed photo was placed on the table, by being themselves – salty, somewhat irreverent, but 100 percent happy to be sitting face to face with each other.

"We've been meeting since 1949," Clinton, Mass., resident Walter O'Malley said. "The last three years the average attendance of veterans has been about 21. The attendance won't get any larger. The minimum age is 86."

Brouillette [was in B-1-27]. O'Malley, Pagoaga and Johnny Scarfo, of Utica, N.Y., were in the same company: E-2-27. O'Malley and Scarfo were in the same squad. ...

"We were real close," Pagoaga said. "You had to be real close."

Pagoaga lost a leg at Iwo Jima; Scarfo took a mortar [hit], but wasn't seriously injured.

"We make fun at each other," Scarfo said. "Nobody gets mad. I used to know a guy who had no legs, and I used to tell him to dance with my wife. Nobody gets mad."

They've all seen human carnage, but that isn't what they talk about when they get together.

"The most memorable part of being on Iwo Jima was getting off Iwo Jima," O'Malley said. "We don't talk war."

*Reprinted with permission. © The Town Talk, Alexandria, La.*



# Newspaper article recounts seven brothers, including Iwo Marine, who served in U.S. military

Iwo Jima Marine veteran Aaron Jeffery “A.J.” Shelley (C-1-28) was recently featured in an article in a local Dothan, Ala., area newspaper, The Abbeville Herald. In observance of Veterans Day last November, Henry County (Ala.) historian T. Larry Smith recounted the Robert and Vinnie Shelley family with seven sons, including A.J., who had served a combined 110 years of service in the U.S. military.



A.J. Shelley

“Robert Gordon Shelley 1896-1989 and wife Vinnie Miller Shelley 1899-1973 were parents of 11 children, including eight sons and three daughters,” Smith wrote. “Their first child, a son named Willie Curtis Shelley, died at age 14 months. They reared seven sons and three daughters.”

The photo of A.J. Shelley shown here was one of seven published of the sons who served in the military. The article described their service:

“(1) Robert Thomas ‘Tommy’ Shelley 1917-2006, 21 years in U.S. Army, WWI, Korea, participated in the D-Day landing at Normandy in WWII. (2) Malley Miller ‘Dude’ Shelley 1919-1997, 13 years in U.S. Army, WWII. (3) Grover Cleveland Shelley 1921-2009, 24 years U.S. Army, WWII, Korea, was in Korea when that conflict began. (4) Aaron Jeffery ‘Jeff’ Shelley 1923-now lives in Dothan, Ala., four years in

U.S. Marine Corps in WWII [including service during the Battle of Iwo Jima.] ... He also spent about three years in the Alabama National Guard. (5) Sandford ‘Sam’ Harold Shelley 1926-2005, 21 years in U.S. Army, WWII, Korea twice, witnessed Gen Douglas MacArthur’s return to the Philippine Islands. (6) Franklin Delano Shelley 1931-now lives in Headland, 21 years in U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force, served in the German occupation, Korea and in Vietnam. (7) Carl Ray “Baby” Shelley 1934-now lives in

Louisiana, three years in U.S. Army, Korea.

“All brothers returned home after serving their duty in the armed forces,” Smith continued. “However, only three presently survive.”

He reported that a U.S. flag had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on June 17, 2013, in honor of the seven brothers at the request of Alabama Congresswoman Martha Roby. The flag was later presented to Frank Shelley, representing the family.

“Ancestors of these seven Shelley sons service in the Revolutionary War, Indian War, Civil War and Spanish American War,” Smith concluded. “This band of seven military brothers is a reminder on this Veterans Day Week that our freedoms do not come cheaply.”

## FINAL MUSTER

(“Roll Call of the Reef”)

BROUILLETTE, Menard A. “Bull” <b>B-1-27</b> 9/22/2013	MOOSE, Nathan <b>5THRECON</b> 10/17/2013
GLENNON, Edward V. <b>5THENGR</b> 4/17/2012	NICHOLAS, William “Bill” <b>H-3-28</b> 6/7/2013
HAYDEN, Harry P. <b>C-1-26</b> 11/4/2013	PHILLIPS, Glenn <b>5THENGR</b> 9/2/2012
HIGGS, Wayne H. “Dick” <b>A-1-28</b> 12/10/2013	SAMPSON, Donald D. <b>H-3-26</b> 6/11/2013
HOKE, Phil <b>11THAMPH</b> 2/26/2013	VINCENT, Harold M. “Vince” <b>G-3-28</b> 7/11/2010
KASPER, John R. <b>H-3-13</b> 5/23/2010	WATERHOUSE, Charles <b>C-1-28</b> 11/16/2013

*Correction:* Hurben C. Thompson, 5THENGR, died 10/2/2012. The date was incorrect in the last issue of The Spearhead.

Send Final Muster notices (including name, unit and date of death) by email to [talespress@talespress.com](mailto:talespress@talespress.com), by USPS to Association Secretary Ray Elliott, 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802, or by calling 217-384-5820.

# The Capture of Mt. Suribachi and the First Flag Raising

*Editor's Note: As company commander of Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, Col Dave E. Severance was ordered to send a patrol up the side of Mount Suribachi on the morning of 23 February 1945 and raise a small American flag. Since then, he has spoken and written about the events of that morning and endeavors to keep the record straight by exposing the numerous misrepresentations and fabrications that continue to crop up about what actually took place.*

**By Col Dave E. Severance (USMC) Ret.**

On the morning of D+1, I received orders from the regimental commander relieving my company of the regimental reserve assignment, and I was directed to report back to my battalion. We moved back across the island in a loose column of platoons into the area behind our 2nd Battalion Command Post, and I reported to LtCol Chandler Johnson. He had me move my 1st Platoon to the front line, relieving one of the Fox Company platoons.

Shortly afterward, an attempt was made to push the front lines forward, and the 1st Platoon suffered the loss of its platoon leader, 1stLt George Stoddard. Just before nightfall, I was ordered to move the 2nd and 3rd platoons into position, relieving the 1st Platoon and the remaining Fox Company platoon. The company was now occupying the right half of the battalion line, with a company of the 3rd Battalion on the right of my 3rd Platoon. Dog Company was on our left, but would be relieved by Fox Company the morning of 21 February (D+2) as Maj Dick Allen, Dog Company commander, had been wounded.

The morning of 21 February brought the first big push to reach the base of Mt. Suribachi and was scheduled to kick off at 8:05 a.m. As the combat tanks were not refueled and rearmed, K-Hour was postponed to 8:25 a.m. By the time the new K-Hour came up, the tanks were still not available. Their refueling/rearming sites had been targeted by Japanese mortars requiring at least two moves. At 8:25 a.m. we were told we were to jump off at 8:30 a.m., tanks or no tanks.

There were no tanks, and at 8:30 a.m. the 2nd and



When the patrol from Easy Company, 28th Marines, reached the top of Mt. Suribachi, Cpl Robert Leader and Pfc Leo Rozek found a long piece of water pipe and tied the flag to it. At 10:20 a.m., six Marines raised the small flag: Lt H. George Schrier, PltSgt Ernest "Boots" Thomas, Sgt Henry "Hank" Hansen, Cpl Charles "Chuck" Lindberg, Pfc James Michels and Pfc Louis Charlo (who was from Fox Company). (Photo by S/Sgt Louis "Lou" Lowery, *Leatherneck* photographer)

3rd battalions rush forward in an attack that, from all appearances, resembled the start of the New York Marathon. The terrain was open and sloped down toward the enemy line of fortifications. The only cover from enemy fire was in the shell holes and bomb craters. The troops closed rapidly on the enemy troops who were occupying a line of about 100 pillboxes and bunkers connected by trenches. Each pillbox was covering, with fire, the blind side of adjacent pillboxes. Casualties were heavy, but the platoon assault squads soon commenced the systematic destruction of the emplacements using small-arms fire, flame-throwers and explosives.

At about 10:30 a.m. the first tanks showed up and were directed to the 3rd Battalion, as they had been unable to reach the base of Suribachi. A short time later, several tanks arrived in the Easy Company sector, and two tank guides were sent back to guide them around exposed land mines and into the forward area. Utilizing the tank telephone mounted on the rear of the tank, Easy Company men would direct the tank fire on those enemy positions being attacked. One Easy

Company Marine was killed while guiding a tank to a forward position. By about 2 p.m., Easy and Fox companies were close to the base of the volcano, and Dog Company was committed on the extreme left of the battalion front. When Easy and Fox companies reached the base of the volcano, it was determined that the 3rd Battalion had been held up short of the base of the mountain in its sector. Fox Company was ordered to swing to its left around the volcano and push to the southern tip of the island. Easy Company followed Fox Company around the east side of Suribachi with orders to relieve Fox Company as it returned from the southern end of the island. Dog Company provided one platoon to extend to the left flank of the 3rd Battalion to tie-in and maintain contact. In order to physically occupy the area vacated by Easy Company as it moved around the base of the volcano, Lt Nate Lipscomb, commanding the 2nd Battalion 81mm Mortar Platoon, moved in with 20 men from that platoon.

As darkness was settling in, an attempt was made to tie in Dog Company and Easy Company, but too many individual enemy positions had been bypassed and the contact could not be made. Fox Company attempted to return from the southern end of the island, but was held up by enemy fire. They returned after dark, passing through Easy Company positions. Staying close to the base of the volcano, they moved into a position near the 2nd Battalion Command Post at about 9:30 p.m. and were designated as the Battalion Reserve Company. During the night and early morning, Lt Lipscomb's mortar men were attacked by Japanese attempting to evacuate their Suribachi positions and make their way north. Lipscomb's platoon suffered several KIAs and WIAs, but did away with about 60 of the Japanese troops.

Easy Company found it was cut off by enemy troops and could not evacuate three wounded men overland. Staff Sgt Charles E. Harris and several other volunteers from Regimental Headquarters and Service Company went aboard a destroyer escort that was bombarding the slopes of Suribachi with 40mm guns and obtained a raft. By early morning they had floated the raft to the rocky shore, where Easy Company had located its command post and removed two of the seriously wounded Marines. Harris was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his bravery.

Over all, the 2nd Battalion had lost 16 enlisted men killed, six officers and 79 enlisted men wounded during the 20-hour period. For the period 19 through 21 February, Easy Company casualties were 13

enlisted killed, three officers wounded and evacuated, 45 enlisted Marines and one Navy Corpsman wounded – or 43 percent of my officers and 26 percent of the enlisted strength. We thought our battle would be over and the north end would soon be captured once we had captured the summit of Mt. Suribachi, as it would no longer provide an observation post for the Japanese. The casualties were considerably lower than I had anticipated in the capture of the base of Mt. Suribachi.

The morning of 22 February started with a bang. U.S. Navy F6F fighters armed with 100-pound bombs had spotted us and started making bombing passes. Fortunately, their aim was poor. When I attempted to have a red flare launched to warn the aviators that we were friendly troops, we could not locate a rifle grenade launcher cartridge. My attempt to raise the battalion commander on his SCR 300 radio was unsuccessful, so I switched (against regulations) to the regimental commander's frequency.

"Red Wing Six, this is Bayonet Easy Six, over!"

The reply came back from the colonel's radioman: "Bayonet Easy Six, this is Red Wing Six. Go ahead with your message."

"Red Wing Six, this is Bayonet Easy Six. Friendly planes are bombing our position."

"Bayonet Easy Six, say again your message."

"Red Wing Six, friendly planes are bombing the hell out of us!"

This last message was followed by silence. I visualized the radioman running to the colonel with my message and expected to see the planes peel off and leave us alone. Instead, the colonel's radioman came back on the air.

"Bayonet Easy Six, this is Red Wing Six. You are not authorized to come up on this frequency! Out!"

Fortunately, LtCol Johnson, my battalion commander, was near and questioned the radioman as to why Bayonet Easy Six was calling. When he was told "something about friendly planes bombing," the colonel took immediate action and we suffered no casualties from the Navy bombing.

Once this crisis was over, I noted that the position in which I had originally placed my command post the evening before, in a slight draw along the base of the volcano, had been completely covered by a rock slide set off by a Navy destroyer escorts firing 40mm rounds on the mountain all night.

We soon established physical contact with the 2nd

*Continued on page 12*

## SURIBACHI

*Continued from page 11*

Battalion Command Post. The Japanese blocking our route to the battalion had either been killed or escaped to the north. For the remainder of the day, 22 February, we provided patrols to investigate caves along the base of the volcano, blasting those suspected of housing the enemy. Our position was physically uncomfortable as the “ground” was nothing but small- to medium-sized rocks, defying excavation to provide foxholes. For the most part, we built up piles of rocks in front of our positions to serve as protection should we be attacked.

Early on the morning of 23 February, I heard the battalion was sending a small patrol to explore for routes up the northern face of the volcano. We were on the alert, expecting to be called to reinforce or “extract” the four-man patrol sent from Fox Company led by Sgt Sherman Watson. I was surprised to hear that Watson’s patrol had reached the top of the mountain without drawing enemy fire. Shortly after Watson’s successful climb up the volcano, and as he was descending, I was called by LtCol Johnson and told to supply a platoon-sized patrol with my executive officer as its leader.

I chose the 3rd Platoon for the mission, as it was the closest to the Battalion Command Post. The platoon’s 25 men, then led by PltSgt Ernest Thomas, were augmented by about 12 men from the Machine Gun Platoon and several 60mm Mortar men. When 1stLt H. George Schrier reported to LtCol Johnson, the colonel handed him a small American flag that had been given to 2ndLt G. Greeley Wells by the crew of the USS Missoula, the troop transport that had carried the entire battalion as far as Saipan. LtCol Johnson told Lt Schrier to raise the flag “if” he reached the top. I believe it was a common thought among the officers that the Japanese were holding their fire until a sizable force started up the mountain. We did not know what size unit they might be waiting for, and were pleasantly surprised when the 40-man patrol did not draw their fire.

Once the patrol reached the summit, Lt Schrier had his men spread out in a defensive position while he sent Cpl Robert Leader and Pfc Leo Rozek to find a pole suitable for raising the small flag. Leader and Rozek found a long piece of water pipe about 2 inches in diameter and carried it to the highest pinnacle, where they tied the flag to the pipe. At 10:20 a.m., six of the Marines raised the small flag: Lt Schrier, PltSgt Thomas, Sgt Henry Hansen, Cpl Charles Lindberg, Pfc

James Michels and Pfc Louis Charlo. (Charlo was from Fox Company and had been with Sgt Watson’s small patrol. No records seem to explain why he was with Lt Schrier. I suspect he may have been sent to guide the patrol over the earlier patrol’s route.)

Sgt Louis Lowery, a Marine photographer for the Marine’s *Leatherneck* magazine, had accompanied the patrol, and after delaying the raising of the flag for about a minute while he reloaded his camera, Lowery shot a picture of the flag with its pole in an upright position and the six men near the pole. Some books have mistakenly identified a radioman standing near the flagpole as being Charlo. Actually, we believe Charlo is barely visible – only his hand and helmet can be seen near the base of the pipe. The radioman has been identified by a forensic photographer as Ray Jacobs from Fox Company. Several stretcher-bearers were provided by battalion headquarters. The raising of the flag seemed to trigger an immediate response from several Japanese concealed in a nearby cave. As they burst out of the cave, firing and throwing several grenades, they were taken under fire by Marines in defensive positions, and the Japanese were killed. Unfortunately, one of the grenades landed near Sgt Lowery, who took evasive action. He jumped over the crest of the volcano and slid 20-30 feet down the slope. He broke his camera, but fortunately saved his film.

Col Johnson was elated that his troops had reached the summit of Mt. Suribachi without a blood bath. He ordered a platoon from Fox Company to re-enforce the Easy Company patrol, and later had Capt Art Naylor take the remainder of Fox Company to reinforce the Suribachi patrol and clean out the southern crest of the volcano.

At about the same time Lt Schrier’s patrol was climbing the volcano, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal and LtGen Holland M. Smith, USMC, were leaving the command ship, the USS Eldorado, en route to the beach. Either shortly before they reached the beach, or just after setting foot ashore, they spotted the small flag being raised. Secretary Forrestal turned to Gen Smith and said, “Holland, that flag up there means a Marine Corps for another 500 years.” Not publicly recorded were his words after that statement when he indicated to Gen Smith that he would like to have the flag as a memento of his visit to Iwo Jima. Since the secretary’s wish was the same as a command, we must assume Gen Smith forwarded the secretary’s wish to the 5th Marine Division commander.

When LtCol Johnson heard of the SecNav's request for our small flag, he said: "Hell, no! He can't have our flag. We put it up there, and we're going to keep it!"

The colonel was adamant that the small flag should not go to the SecNav. To forestall such an event, he concocted a scheme whereby he would send another flag up the mountain, have it raised as the initial flag was lowered, and stow the small flag in the battalion safe. If the Secretary of the Navy wanted a flag, the second flag would be available.

To further his plan he called on 2ndLt Albert T. Tuttle, the battalion assistant operations officer, to go to the beach and locate another flag. Lt Tuttle told me that as he was leaving the command post, the colonel – almost as an afterthought – called to him to try to find a larger flag. Tuttle went aboard LST 779 and contacted the communications officer, Ensign Alan S. Wood, USN, who provided him with a large ceremonial flag that he had located in a duffel bag at a Pearl Harbor Navy salvage yard. Some have imagined the flag may have been taken from a Navy ship damaged by the Japanese on 7 December 1941, but this has never been

verified. It would have been meaningful if such were true – a Pearl Harbor flag flying over the first Japanese home territory to be assaulted and captured by American infantry troops during the war.

Historically speaking, had the secretary not expressed his wish to have the small 4-foot-long flag flying on Mt. Suribachi as a memento, there most likely would not have been a second flag. That would mean no Joe Rosenthal Pulitzer Prize photo, no Felix DeWeldon Marine Corps War Memorial statue, probably few (if any) annual Iwo Jima reunions, and Iwo Jima would have been looked upon as another Marine Corps heavy-casualty operation, much as Tarawa.

There was really no singular requirement to raise a larger flag. The troops on Iwo, as well as the troops and Navy men at sea, all recognized the small red cloth on the volcano as our American flag. This was signified by the loud yelling of the troops and the sounding of the horns on the ships at sea.

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*Reprinted with permission by the author from Iwo Jima Journal and Wannabe Heroes, 2006.*

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## The Second Flag Raising

**By Col Dave E. Severance (USMC) Ret.**

Leaving the USS Eldorado, not far behind LtGen Holland M. Smith and Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal, was Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal. Although he had no clue this would be the greatest day in his career as a photographer, he did have some indication it could be his worst day.

As he was about to step into the landing craft to go ashore, he slipped and fell into the ocean. The boat's crew quickly dragged him into the boat and a dripping-wet Rosenthal headed for the beach. He had been working the 4th Marine Division sector for four days, but when the boat's coxswain heard on his radio that a patrol was going up Mt. Suribachi, Rosenthal asked to be set ashore on Green Beach near Mt. Suribachi.

Once ashore he made his way to the 28th Marines Command Post. There he encountered two other photographers, Marine Sgt William Genaust with a movie camera and color film, and Marine Pfc Robert



Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's shot became one of the most recognized and iconic images of World War II.

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## SECOND FLAG

*Continued from page 13*

Campbell with a still camera. Rosenthal convinced the two photographers to make the trek to the top of the volcano with him. He was happy for the company – both of his fellow photographers were armed. Rosenthal, a civilian, could not carry a weapon.

A number of events were taking place almost simultaneously. Since the raising of the small flag was the only “combat event” insofar as the 2nd Battalion was concerned, that was the only event entered in the unit’s Combat Action Report. The report timed the raising of the first flag as 10:20 a.m. Timing of the other events must be estimated. Rosenthal has stated that the three photographers arrived on the summit of Suribachi shortly after noon. He further remembers that, after leaving the volcano, he stopped at the 28th Marines CP and ate a ration. Looking at his watch then, he noted it was 1:05 pm.

While 2ndLt Albert T. Tuttle was aboard LST 779 obtaining a second flag and Rosenthal was departing from the 28th Marines CP, I received a call from LtCol Chandler Johnson instructing me to send him a small detail to string combat telephone wire from the battalion CP to 1stLt H. George Schrier on top of Suribachi. I sent Sgt Mike Strank, who took three men from his squad with him: Cpl Harlon Block, Pfc Ira Hayes and Pfc Frank Sousley. They were ready to leave the battalion CP with the wire just as Lt Tuttle returned with the large second flag. Also about to depart from the battalion headquarters area was Pfc René Gagnon, my runner stationed there. He was taking replacement radio batteries to the Suribachi patrol. Col Johnson handed the large flag to Gagnon and told Sgt Strank to pass the word to Lt Schrier that he wanted the new flag raised and the small flag lowered and returned to him immediately.

As the three photographers started their climb, some distance behind Sgt Strank and his detail, they met Sgt Louis Lowery descending to find a replacement for his broken camera. Lowery told them he had already taken a picture of the flag being raised, but that there was a tremendous view from the top. The trio debated making the climb but decided to climb the mountain and shoot some photos of “the flag” and the view. Neither the three ascending photographers nor Lowery were aware that a second flag was being carried to the top of Suribachi.

Upon reaching the crest of the volcano, the

photographers saw a group of Marines with a folded flag working at the end of a long water pipe. Rosenthal asked several Marines in the area what the group was doing. Their answer was: “We’re going to take down the small flag to keep as a souvenir and raise the large flag at the same time.”

The three photographers sized up the situation. Bob Campbell decided to go around behind the first flag to a position where he could photograph both flags as they were moved. Rosenthal and Genaust backed off about 30 feet to a position where they could photograph the new flag being raised – a position that would have the skyline as a backdrop. Rosenthal discovered that from his position he could not view the base of the new flag position and placed together a Japanese sand bag and several flat rocks to build a small platform upon which to stand.

As Rosenthal was more or less sighting in on the position of the new flag and pipe, PltSgt Ernest Thomas walked in front of him. Then across his front walked Genaust, taking a position on Rosenthal’s right. Genaust started filming and asked Rosenthal if he was in his way. Rosenthal turned toward Genaust to say, “No. You’re not in my way.” At that moment, out of the corner of his eye, Rosenthal saw some movement. Turning back toward the flag, he saw a group of men raising the flag. He sighted into his viewfinder, and when he spotted the flag, at what he has described as “at its peak,” he tripped the shutter. By “peak,” I understand he meant when the flag unfurled in the breeze.

Not sure that he had a picture, he asked Lt Schrier if he would assemble a group of his men under the new flag so that he could take a photo of them. Schrier gathered 18 men, and Rosenthal lined them up, asking each to indicate some enthusiasm and excitement. With this, he photographed the group waving their helmets and rifles. This photo would later cause some confusion as to whether the famous flag picture had been staged or taken candid. The answer is that it was candid; the photo of the 18 men was “staged.” After shooting several other pictures, Rosenthal descended from the volcano top and returned to the 28th Marines Command Post. There he sat down and opened a ration. As I mentioned earlier, the time was 1:05 p.m.

Nobody had bothered to determine who the men were who raised the second flag photographed by Rosenthal. Some weeks later as Rosenthal’s flag picture was published throughout the nation, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked for the names of the men

in the photo. He ordered that they be returned to the United States to lead the Seventh War Bond Drive (the most successful drive of World War II). It would be determined that Sgt Strank, Pfc Sousley, Pfc Gagnon and Pharmacist Mate/2nd Class John Bradley were four of those involved. At that time, Sgt Henry Hansen was believed to have been in the group. This was disproved over a year later when the Marine at the base of the flagpole was identified as Cpl Harlon Block. Gagnon finally broke down when he arrived in Washington, D.C., and told that Pfc Ira Hayes was also in the picture.

By the time word was received to return the six flag raisers to the U.S., three had been killed: Strank, Block and Sousley. Sgt Hansen had also been killed. Bradley had been wounded on 12 March and evacuated from the island. As we left Iwo and sailed toward Hawaii, Gagnon was taken off the ship on 3 April at Eniwetok and flown to Washington, D.C. The day before our ship arrived at Hawaii, President Roosevelt died. Two days later, on 15 April 1945, “dispatch” (hurry up) orders in hand, Ira Hayes was put on a plane for Washington, D.C.

Most of us at the lower command level thought once Suribachi was captured, our mission was over and that the 3rd Marine Division, 4th Marine Division and the remainder of the 5th Marine Division would take care of the northern end of the island. We thought that once we had closed the caves around the mountain, there would be no more for us to do. We were thinking of boarding our ships.

There was little activity on top of the mountain, although the Japanese did attempt to blast the area with

artillery, rockets and air-burst artillery rounds. The Marines suffered no casualties. Three Japanese were killed on the night of 26 February as they attempted to reach a supply of water and rations. The capture of Mt. Suribachi had deprived the Japanese of an observation point from which they could observe the entire island. Needless to say, most if not all of the 5th Corps’ artillery units sent observers to be stationed on Suribachi.

On 26 February, Easy Company was moved from its area in the rocks on the east side of Suribachi to a position in the center of the island some 50 yards from the base of Suribachi. 1stSgt John Daskalakis and I located our company command post in a shell hole made by a 16-inch naval gun. Others in the company dug one- or two-man foxholes. In the middle of the night, the Japanese laid an artillery barrage on our position. I can remember crowding up against the side of the shell hole, nudging closer and closer until I had moved up and over the berm of the shell hole. The first sergeant and I decided that the next day would be spent building up a foxhole with sand bags in the middle of the shell hole.

Despite the bombardment, the company suffered no casualties. When daylight came, one Marine in a single foxhole, a water-cooled .30 caliber machine gun at his head, found shrapnel in the water jacket of the gun and an “extension” at the foot of his foxhole caused by shelling.

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*Reprinted with permission by the author from Iwo Jima Journal and Wannabe Heroes, 2006.*

## ***This Is Your Flag Talking***

**By Chuck Tatum**

Hey! You with your hat on, stand to attention.

This is your FLAG talking,  
and they are playing my song.

Stand to Attention. Pay me some respect.

I’ve been around for 227 years,  
and I’m still waving strong.

I stood fast at Fort McHenry  
when the British took their best shots.

My buddy, Francis Scott Key, penned the words that still

inspire his countrymen to fight wars,  
and perform noble deeds to preserve my heritage –

Men who put love of country first before life.

Men who fought at Valley Forge, Gettysburg,  
Belleau Woods, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima.

At Iwo Jima they took my picture  
and inspired monuments that will live forever.

Remember, Freedom Isn’t Free!

I’m your FLAG. And when they play my song,  
Stand to Attention!

Take off your hat!

I demand your respect.

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*Tatum served with B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Marines. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star and is the author of Black Sand Red Blood about Iwo Jima.*

# Why Me?

By Billy Cawthron  
Fifth Marine Division Association Chaplain

I was born into a wonderful family, in the most wonderful country there ever was. Why me?

I was enjoying life. I loved all the things that young people loved – fishing, hunting, sports and spending a lot of time in the woods. Life was very good. Why me?

Something happened that changed my life. The wonderful country of ours was attacked, and the call went out for those to come and defend Her. Why me?

I was placed in the most wonderful fighting unit there ever was—the U.S. Marine Corps. The Corps was forming a new division—the Fifth Division. I was selected to be part of that division. Why me?

I had the privilege of serving with the most wonderful young men you could ever have asked for. We had a lot of fun. We talked. We joked. We teased ... and sometimes, we even played pranks on each other. But most of all, we learned to respect, to trust, and to depend upon each other. Why me?

Before, I thought life had been hard. But after a very long trip across the ocean on an A.P.A., I realized that everything that had gone before was “a piece of cake.”

Ship life is boring, hot and sweaty. In fact, I think the purpose of the Navy was to make life so miserable, we would be happy to get off – regardless of what might lie ahead of us.

Finally, the day arrived – February 19, 1945. We were prepared. As we knelt in the landing craft, many things went through our minds. Some thought of home;

some, of girlfriends; and a few, of the wife they had left behind. We were anxious to prove ourselves.

We were well aware that every combat had casualties, but I don't think any of us understood how hard it would be to see those we had trained with, respected and enjoyed being with, fall – to rise no more. Day after day, our ranks became smaller. We drew replacements; and oftentimes, they were gone before we ever learned their names. Day after day, we wondered if it would ever end, or if any of us would be left standing. But finally, the big guns were quiet. No more mortars rained down from the sky. It was over. So few of us that had come ashore that first day were still there. Why me?

As I stood looking at all the white crosses, they seemed to extend all the way to eternity. But I did not see the crosses; I saw the faces of those I admired, those who had given their all. Why not me?

I know God has a reason and a purpose in all things. I know He has a purpose in each of our lives. As the many years have passed – and there have been many – the question is still with us, Why me?

One of the reasons, I believe, is that we might never forget those who paid the ultimate price, those who bore the scars of battle in their bodies throughout their lives. Might we never forget, might we always strive to remind everyone who lives in this wonderful country of ours, and enjoy all the wonderful things we have ... all paid for by many thousands, even millions, of men.

I know I shall never forget. My prayer is that this wonderful nation shall never forget.





# Planned Activities for 2014 Reunion in Tampa

The dates for the 2014 Reunion in Tampa are Sept. 8 - 13.  
The designated hotel has not yet been determined.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

### Monday, September 8

Arrival  
Hospitality Room open, 1600-2300

### Tuesday, September 9

Memorial Breakfast and Roll Call  
Hospitality Room open until 2300

### Wednesday, September 10

Morning trip to 4th Amtrac Battalion  
Afternoon excursion to Florida Marine Aquarium  
and streetcar to Ybor City  
Hospitality Room open, 1300-2300

### Thursday, September 11

Morning excursion to Busch Gardens  
Hospitality Room open until 2300

### Friday, September 12

Morning excursion to Military Museum at Largo  
Hospitality Room open until 2300

### Saturday, September 13

Annual Business Meeting at 1300  
Hospitality room open until 1600  
Reception, 1800-1900  
Closing Banquet, 1900-2200

## 2014 REUNION INTEREST FORM

Please indicate your intention to attend and interest in excursions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Other guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your interest in the following excursions and events by circling Yes or No:

4th Amtrac Battalion	Yes / No	Military Museum at Largo	Yes / No
Busch Gardens	Yes / No	Memorial Breakfast	Yes / No
Florida Aquarium and Ybor City streetcar	Yes / No	Reception and Banquet	Yes / No

Mail to:  
**John Butler**  
11871 Raintree Drive  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617

Final schedule, hotel information and fees will be provided in the next edition of *The Spearhead News*. The Tampa area has many other attractions, and some may want to make their stay into a vacation. I plan and will work to have a good reunion, including a reunion book. See you in Tampa.

– John Butler, President

**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2013  
HANDLERY HOTEL AND RESORT, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Bill Behana. He offered a moment of remembrance for the fallen Iwo Jima and Vietnam veterans who served with the 5th Marine Division and all those who had passed on; said a prayer; and then led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**President's Report**

President Behana announced that Tony DeSantis had resigned as secretary and treasurer, and Ray Elliott had been appointed secretary and CPA Terry Williams was appointed treasurer at the trustee meeting held the day before. Renewal dues and other correspondence are to be sent to Mr. Elliott, who will then send any checks and financial information to Ms. Williams. *(Note: It was later decided by the president and the trustees that Warren Musch, also a trustee, would assume the treasurer's duties.)*

**Secretary's Report**

Mr. Elliott read the minutes from the previous meeting in August 2012 during the reunion in Reno, Nev., as provided by Mr. DeSantis and published in the Spring/Summer 2013 issue of *The Spearhead News*. The minutes were later voted on and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report**

President Behana gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Mr. DeSantis and announced that the 30 troy ounces of gold had been sold for \$43,680, and the bank balance of the association was \$53,345.68.

**New Business**

Ivan Hammond proposed that former Marine captain and associate member of the association John Butler organize the 65th reunion in 2014. He is the son of LtCol John Butler, who commanded 1-27 on Iwo Jima until he was KIA on March 4, 1945. Mr. Hammond continued with background information on Mr. Butler and his brother, Morey, who had helped a great deal with the reunion in Biloxi, Miss., and would be helpful in a reunion John Butler would host in Tampa, if the membership gave its approval. Mr. Hammond gave extensive background on Mr. Butler, including memories he had of his father leaving for Camp Tarawa and later being posthumously awarded a Navy Cross after the family had moved to Ft. Myers, Fla.

Mr. Hammond moved that the next reunion be approved for Tampa, Fla., in 2014. John Huffhines seconded the motion, and it was approved by a vote of 37-0.

Also, Penny Pauletto noted that Morey Butler previously had been recommended for honorary lifetime membership in the association for his work at the Biloxi reunion, but it had not been voted on. Ms. Pauletto made the motion to approve it now. John Huffhines seconded the motion. It was approved by a 37-0 vote.

President Behana noted that with the age of the association's Iwo veterans now in the late '80s and '90s, it was becoming increasingly more difficult to continue the association unless younger people and the Vietnam veterans stepped up. As a result, he said association funds were depleting because of the fewer numbers. Warren Musch made a motion that the publication of *The Spearhead News* be reduced from three issues to two issues per year, reportedly saving \$500 annually. Bob Mueller seconded, and the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

**Submitted by Ray Elliott, Secretary**

## FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

As of October 17, 2013

Statement of Income and Expense Year ended December 31,	2013 YTD	2012	Change Increase/(Dec)
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dues	\$ 1,820.00	\$ 2,170.00	\$ (350.00)
General Fund	523.00	430.00	93.00
Interest	-	-	-
Advertising	170.00	170.00	-
Reunion (1)	7,333.00	-	7,333.00
<i>Operating Income</i>	<u>\$ 9,846.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,770.00</u>	<u>\$ 7,076.00</u>
Gain on sale of investment	40,365.00		40,365.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>\$ 50,211.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,770.00</u>	<u>\$ 47,441.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administrative Services (2)	5,625.00	6,682.00	(1,057.00)
Office Expenses	370.85	587.26	(216.41)
Production & Distribution	8,868.42	9,536.87	(668.45)
Reunion Advances	16,000.00	2,000.00	14,000.00
<b>Total operating expense</b>	<u>30,864.27</u>	<u>18,806.13</u>	<u>12,058.14</u>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<u>\$ 19,346.73</u>	<u>\$ (16,036.13)</u>	<u>\$ 35,382.86</u>

(1) Includes \$2,878 from the 2012 reunion deposited in Feb 2013

(2) Secretary for 8 months (2 months being returned)

Statement of Accounts	17-Oct-13	31-Dec-12	Change Increase/(Dec)
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Bank Account (3)	\$ 52,431.68	\$ 33,084.95	\$ 19,346.73
Investment--			
Gold in deposit, at cost (4)	-	36,600.00	(36,600.00)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>\$ 52,431.68</u>	<u>\$ 69,684.95</u>	<u>\$ (17,253.27)</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<u>\$ 52,431.68</u>	<u>\$ 69,684.95</u>	<u>\$ (17,253.27)</u>

(3) Total amount transferred to Petefish, Skiles & Co. Bank, Virginia, IL

(4) The gold was sold on 8/16/2013 for \$40,365

**NOTE:**

*In light of transitioning to a new treasurer for the association, a complete annual financial statement for 2013 will be published in the next issue of The Spearhead News.*

# FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Ray Elliott, Secretary  
2609 N. High Cross Rd.  
Urbana, IL 61802

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## 5th Marine Division Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

*All annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time.*

New member (  )    Renewal (  )    Associate (  )

Served with: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Co.            Bn.            Reg.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Fifth Marine Division Association  
Ray Elliott, Secretary  
2609 N. High Cross Rd.  
Urbana, IL 61802

or email [talespress@talespress.com](mailto:talespress@talespress.com)

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

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Dues (please check):

(  ) 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.)*