



# Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL  
PUBLICATION  
of the  
5TH MARINE  
DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION

**70TH ANNUAL REUNION - NEW ORLEANS, LA  
OCTOBER 21 - 27, 2019  
HIGGINS HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER**

## Get ready to reunite in New Orleans next fall

By Kathy Painton

Leonard S. Isacks IV and Jimmie Hyde Watson are pleased to be your host and hostess for the FMDA's 70th Reunion. They are especially excited to have the WWII Museum and the Higgins Hotel/Convention Center as a venue for the reunion activities.

The reunion will be dedicated to remembering those who lost their lives in the battle on Iwo Jima, those who came home but have since passed, and those veterans who are still with us. The hotel decor and Art Deco furniture is reminiscent of the WWII era and will evoke memories of the 1940s for the veterans and create a feeling of what it was like back then for others.

The Higgins Hotel and Convention Center's Grand Opening is scheduled for Oct. 19, 2019, and hotel representatives are ecstatic at the opportunity to welcome the WWII veterans who fought at Iwo Jima, and their families, as the hotel's first guests.

The hotel is scheduled for completion in early August and **will not be accepting reservations until Aug. 1**. They will hold 40 rooms open for the FMDA at a **significantly reduced rate of \$170 - \$200 per night (including all taxes)**, so it is important that you **send in**



Jimmie Hyde Watson and Leonard Isacks

**your Reunion Registration Form ASAP** so we can let the hotel know how many people will be calling in August to make hotel reservations when that contact information becomes available.

New Orleans is an exciting city to explore, with a large variety of attractions to interest visitors, so the reunion site is an excellent base for your stay in New Orleans. The hotel is located next to the WWII Museum and is within an easy walking distance to several other museums you might want to visit. There is also a streetcar stop nearby, which will take you to Canal Street, the French Quarter and the Riverfront area.

Some "open days" will be provided for you to choose your own excursions, individually, as a family or with a group of friends. The Hospitality Room will be open in the afternoons and evenings so you can gather there for lagniappe and camaraderie.

There are several shuttle services and Uber rentals available to transport you from the airport to the hotel, so there is no need to rent a car if you are flying into New Orleans.

We look forward to seeing you at the FMDA 70th Annual Reunion in October. Y'all come pass a good time!



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**THE SPEARHEAD NEWS**

*Published two times annually in the interest  
 of the Fifth Marine Division Association*

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**CAMP TARAWA MUSEUM UPDATE**

The Camp Tarawa Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, was established in 2009 to honor the memory of the men who trained at Camp Tarawa during WWII. The primary objective of the foundation was to build a small structure near the Camp Tarawa Memorial in Waimea, where artifacts and stories pertaining to Camp Tarawa could be displayed and the history of the area shared with both visitors and local students.

A proposal was made to combine the efforts of the Paniolo Preservation Society, the Waimea Historical Association and the Camp Tarawa Foundation to preserve the history of Waimea collectively in a larger facility to be called the Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center, but this plan failed to gain support and was aborted.

A decision was then made to locate the museum in Waikoloa Village, and after several years pursuing that idea, it was also aborted.

A plan was subsequently proposed to preserve the green Quonset hut which served as the 28th Regiment’s “Slop Chute” (enlisted men’s beer hall) and convert it into a museum. However, structural engineers deemed the Quonset hut to be unsalvageable, and it was dismantled in September 2015.

Efforts to obtain land near the memorial on which to build a small museum have been futile, so the current and most economically feasible plan is to create a virtual museum experience. A summary of this latest proposal was included in the last issue of *Spearhead News*.

Nicole Garcia, a graduate student working on her master’s degree through the University of Hawai’i-Hilo campus, has been assisting me in cataloguing the material that has been collected thus far. She gave a presentation at the 2018 reunion in which she explained how people world-wide would have access (via the internet) to the Camp Tarawa Museum materials through the Past Perfect Online program.

Since November 2018, Nicole has continued to work on cataloguing photos and artifacts from the various collections to prepare the material for the various displays. This process takes time, but implementation of the program should begin by October 2019.

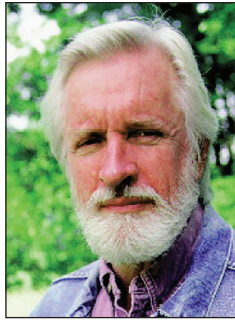
The Camp Tarawa Museum Project is managed by the Camp Tarawa Foundation. All tax-deductible donations designated for the Camp Tarawa Museum are held in the FMDA account until transferred to the Camp Tarawa Foundation.

— Kathy Painton, President

*Editor’s Note:* At the 2018 FMDA Reunion, it was voted by the membership attending the Business Meeting to transfer \$5,000 to the Camp Tarawa Foundation for the museum from the funds that have been contributed to the FMDA for that purpose.

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



### Writing about, and getting to know, Iwo Jima veterans

Little did I know in 2003 when I received several letters from a doctor's family from my home area that he'd had nurses ask wounded Iwo Jima Marines in a Pearl Harbor hospital to write about their experiences on the Japanese island to keep them occupied that I'd be working with and writing about Iwo Jima and its veterans for more than 15 years.

Those letters went to the Rare Book and Special Collections Library at the University of Illinois, and I wrote an article titled, "Iwo Jima Remembered," for the November/December 2003 issue of the Illinois Alumni magazine.

Before I wrote about the letters, I'd known Ben Correll, an Iwo Jima veteran who served with A-1-28, since I was 5 years old and helped carry him to his grave when I was 37 and he was 60. In between those 30-some years, I'd spent three years in the Marine Corps, but didn't know any other Iwo Jima veterans. Ben and I had had many conversations about the battle, the Marine Corps and life in general. He was an inspiration to me.

The article in the alumni magazine led to a trip to the Iwo Jima reunion of members of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Division Marines in Metairie, La., in 2004. Initially, I went to see if I could find anybody who served with Ben and with the idea of writing a short story about Iwo Jima veterans. I found one veteran who knew Ben and told me a little about him—that he was called Smokey after a Chicago Tribune cartoon character of the time. Ben was an avid reader who had wanted to be a writer.

I knew his nickname was Smokey, but we never talked about the origin. But Smokey Stover, the character in the cartoon, whose nonsense word "foo" evolved into the term "foo fighter" during World War II. He created the catch phrase, "Where there's foo, there's fire,"

and "radar operators in World War II liked Smokey's 'fire' analogy, and the term foo fighter came to refer to a spurious or dubious trace" that "pilots would describe seeing distracting bright lights in the sky that appeared to be launched from the ground."

The man didn't know any more than the nickname.

And the Marines at the reunion kept to themselves, and it was difficult for me to get to talk with them. Finally one afternoon, I saw three of them sitting off by themselves. I approached them and asked if I could join them and talk with them.

"What are you?" one of them asked. "A writer?"

"I'd like to think I am," I said.

"What are you writing?" another one asked.

I didn't have a good idea and said I really had a lame idea.

"If you want to talk to us, tell us what it is," one of them said.

"I thought I'd have four or five of you in a situation at your age where you had to act as you did back then," I finally said.

They all laughed.

"What's funny?" I asked.

"Hell, we can't even wipe our own butts now," the same one said.

Those three (Al Pogaoga, Hank Hernandez and Bill Madden) were with E-2-27 and later introduced me to several others with the company at the reunion, and I've kept in touch with them through the years. Most of them are gone now. Only Walter O'Malley and Johnny Scarfo are still with us. Bill Madden, one of the first three and like me, was an English teacher. I quickly got an idea for my novella, "Iwo Blasted Again," from his poem, "Iwo Blasted," and talked with him or emailed him every day while writing the book. His insights and experience provided the basis of the book.

Then, I signed up for the 60th anniversary tour on Iwo Jima in 2005 to attend the Reunion of Honor on the island, was finishing the book, met John Britton, a man from Urbana, Ill., who had attended the high school where I'd taught for 15 years and coincidentally had the same name as my main character, and met Medal of Honor Marine Jack Lucas and his writer D.K. Drum, who was also writing his book, "Indestructible: The Unforgettable Story of a Marine Hero at the Battle of Iwo Jima."

*Continued on next page*

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

Continued from page 3

That's also where I met John Butler on Guam as we checked into the hotel, and later Military Historical Tours CEO Warren Wiedhahn, MHT chief of operations John Powell and a host of Iwo Jima veterans I've been honored to meet. John Butler was on the trip to see where his father, LtCol John A. Butler, commander of the First Battalion, 27th Marines had been killed. John asked me to join him on the vehicle he and his brother Clint were on with Navy Cross recipient in Vietnam and the military historian Col John Ripley, who was taking the group around the island that included taking the Butler brothers to the place their father was killed, and Col Gerald "Gerry" Russell, the executive officer of Second Battalion, 27th Marines, and other Iwo Jima veterans.

Even then, though, little did I know I'd be spending a lot of time with Iwo Jima veterans and

writing about them for the next 15 years. But I joined both the Fifth Marine Division Association and the Iwo Jima Association of America and attended to IJAA symposia in Washington, D.C., and the FMDA reunion in Raleigh, N.C., and was finally asked to edit *Spearhead News* by then-editor Bert Clayton in the Spring of 2008 and later *Black Sands* for IJAA. I've edited *Spearhead* ever since and edited *Black Sands* for a while, traveled to Iwo Jima several times and edited the Reunion of Honor tour publication for those trips

In all those years, it's been my honor to write or edit stories about the veterans and their families. Several of them are included in this issue. As time passes, I feel it's more important than ever to document their stories and their experiences to preserve them for posterity and hope to have more of their first-hand remembrances in print.

## Harvey has more to say in new edition of book

PFC Thiele "Fred" Harvey attended the FMDA reunion in October 2018 and brought copies of the 2017 revised edition of his memoir, "Hell Yes, I'd Do It Again." He says it's "a memoir that details some of the events in one man's journey through life." He also says the new edition was published "because he wanted to tell more" and that there are "a number of stories that he did not get a chance to share the first time."

Harvey joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and volunteered for the newly formed Paramarines. He saw combat on Vella Lavella and Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, and landed on Iwo Jima's Red Beach with the 26th Marines. He was awarded the Silver Star for his bravery while on a three-man patrol.

According to the citation, the patrol was "ambushed by heavy fire from an enemy machine gun and one of the men was seriously wounded. PFC Harvey dragged the fallen Marine under heavy fire to the shelter of a nearby hole. Remaining with the wounded man while his companion went for aid, he held off the hostile forces with his rifle and hand grenades until the arrival of the rescue party. Then, exposing himself to enemy fire and directing accurate heavy fire on the Japanese position, he successfully covered the evacuation of the casualty. By his initiative, courage and unselfish devotion to duty, he



Fred Harvey, C-1-26

undoubtedly saved the life of his comrade. ...." Harvey returned to Iwo Jima in March 2019.

The book is available for \$20 at T. Fred Harvey Publishers, 25 E. Sunset Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028, call 830-285-6745 or email [fredharveybook2@gmail.com](mailto:fredharveybook2@gmail.com).

## New direction, exciting reunion in store

I want to thank those of you who took the time to respond to the survey which accompanied the annual holiday letter. The results indicate there is a sufficient number of people who want to see the FMDA continue to function as a legacy-directed Association. With that goal in mind, I wrote a revision of the Constitution/Bylaws to guide governing and decision making for the future.

In order for the Association to remain financially solvent, some changes will need to be implemented, so it is vitally important that the proposed Constitution/Bylaws be ratified. A copy of this document is provided for your information, and I strongly encourage you to attend the General Business Meeting, held in conjunction with the reunion in October, so you can vote to approve this new Constitution/Bylaws.

I am happy to announce that The National WWII Museum's Higgins Hotel and Convention Center in New Orleans will be the venue for the FMDA 70th Annual Reunion. Leonard S. Isacks IV and Jimmie Watson, both longtime residents of New Orleans, are the host and hostess for the reunion and have been working tirelessly to make it a memorable occasion for everyone who attends.

A tentative schedule for reunion activities is as follows:

**Monday (Oct. 21):** Arrival at hotel; Registration; Hospitality Room (3-10 p.m.)

**Tuesday (Oct. 22):** Day at leisure; Choose your own adventure; Hospitality Room (3-10 p.m.)

**Wednesday (Oct. 23):** Day at leisure; Choose your own adventure; Hospitality Room (3-10 p.m.)

**Thursday (Oct. 24):** WWII Museum (9 a.m.); Hospitality Room (5-10 p.m.)

**Friday (Oct. 25):** WWII Museum (9 a.m.); Hospitality room (5-10 p.m.); Raffle

**Saturday (Oct. 26):** Business Meeting (9-11 a.m.); Memorial Service (11:30 a.m.); Banquet (5 p.m.-?)

**Sunday (Oct. 27):** Departure

The Higgins Hotel and Conference Center will be completed later this summer, and the Grand Opening is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 19-20,



The 2019 FMDA Reunion team includes, left to right, Shelly Dupuy from the WWII Museum, Marc Becker of the Higgins Hotel and Conference Center, Jimmie Hyde Watson, Leonard Isacks IV and Janice Guido, who is also with the hotel.

2019. FMDA Reunion attendees will be among the first guests at the hotel after the official opening, so the delay in providing details for the reunion was well worth the wait.

The hotel won't be taking reservations until Aug. 1; however, they need to know how many rooms to set aside for the FMDA. Hotel representatives requested that we provide an estimate on the number of people who will be attending the reunion, so please send your Reunion Registration Form to me ASAP.

The National WWII Museum is ranked No. 3 in the United States and No. 8 in the world and features many interactive exhibits, a wonderful 4-D film, and an opportunity to experience what it was like to be a crew member on the *USS Tang's* final mission. Our visit to the museum on Thursday will include a luncheon buffet and performance at The Stage Door Canteen.

Lynn Isacks is assisting Jimmie Watson with plans for the Hospitality Room events, and more detailed information about each evening's schedule will be included in the packet you will receive upon arrival at the hotel.

Leonard's grandfather and Jimmie's brother were both KIA on Iwo Jima, so they have a vested interest in maintaining the relationships they have formed with other legacy members, and they are planning a wonderful event which I know you won't want to miss.

I hope to see y'all at the FMDA 70th Annual Reunion in New Orleans Oct. 21-27, 2019.

— Kathy Painton, President

## Lepore family grateful

Thank you so much for the two-page article with photos about our cousin, Lou Lepore. He was like an uncle to some of us and an actual uncle to others. He was the last of his generation on the Lepore side of the family. He had told us about having to go through the 63 duffle bags, but this was the first time we'd realized that Jimmie Hyde Watson was the only family member of one of the [Marines] he had ever met. She contacted Lou often. We now understand better than ever why the connection over her fallen brother created such a bond between them.

If any of your readers would like to learn more about him—and they have access to the internet—they can go to Legacy.com and search for the obituary about Lt. Col. USMCR (ret.) Louis R. Lepore, or they can type into their browser something such as “Louis Lepore San Diego obituary.” The obituary includes a photo of him from WWII and a photo of the plaque on Mt. Soledad (above La Jolla) that honors him.

— Second cousins  
Teryl Springstead and Rita Possehl  
San Diego, CA

## Plenty to read in *Spearhead News*

I wanted to tell you how nice it was to read Vanessa Faurie's perspective on the Reunion [in the last issue]. Being the front-page lead article, I jumped right in — well done!

Then, because I'd written about my “Dad,” I was taken by the “Forever Young The Warrior” article—first-person accounts are always insightful—puts you right there—whew. And well-written, too! Bravo for him—remembering all those names. And fascinating to learn that he was the advisor on John Wayne's movie—and that they weren't allowed “film credit”!

Finally, since Dad was on Iwo, I next read the Mount Suribachi article. There are still “gaps” after 74 years?! I really needed a program to keep track of who was who, constantly going back to give me proper context as the story flowed. Bravo for doing this article before these men and their memories die. I would hope that YOUR article becomes at least ONE of the “definitive” ones about this battle. Nice ending, too.

Thank you for keeping this history alive, to honor

those who served, and for those in the future who need to know.

— Steve Trainor  
Hampton, IL

## Hoping for more Vietnam veteran participation in the FMDA

I received my copy of *The Spearhead* yesterday. All the articles were well written and interesting. Thank you for mentioning my attendance at the reunion.

I have been pondering the topic of the future of the organization. I completed the survey in which I stated my opinion that the Association continue. I hope to be in New Orleans next year. I will do all I can to inform my generation of Fifth Mar Div Marines about the Association. Hopefully, some of the guys will join. We'll see.

I intend to provide you with another writing soon. I am proud to have my works printed in *The Spearhead*.

Do we have a directory of members? I would like to see how many Vietnam guys are in the group. Maybe I might know some of them.

— Bill Baumann  
San Bernadino, CA

## FMDA helps daughter learn more about her father's service

Some time ago, I became interested in researching my daddy's role in the battle of Iwo Jima, and I found out about the Fifth Marine Division Association and asked then-President John Butler if he had any information on my daddy, Earl Rushing Lee, who had died on May 13, 1992. Mr. Butler emailed me in a few days, and said, “OK, got him,” and told me everything from where and when he was born, when and where he died, where he was buried, when he entered the Marine Corps, what his service number was and the rest of his record, including his company on Iwo Jima (C-1-28), that he was wounded on D+1 but not evacuated, when he was discharged and later recalled to Korea.

Mr. Butler also suggested that I contact Laura Leppert, also a Dallas resident and the spouse of former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert. Laura's father, Mr. Butler said, was also a Marine veteran of Iwo Jima. When



Earl Rushing Lee, C-1-28

I emailed her, she asked if I would be interested in meeting her for coffee. We met at Starbucks and she told me that her father was also a member of the 28th Regiment. I had read the book, "The Lions of Iwo Jima: The Story of Combat Team 28 and the Bloodiest Battle in Marine Corps History," written by MajGen Fred Haynes (USMC, Ret.) and James Warren, not knowing at that time that Daddy was a member of that regiment. I finally finished the story of my father's role on Iwo Jima.

Hope to attend a reunion one of these days. To tell you the truth, I have felt it would be too sad for me if I attended, but it might be a memorable experience.

The reason I have not attended any reunions is that I'm afraid I would get very emotional. Maybe the New Orleans event would be more fun, and I will consider it for sure.

— Judith Burkart  
Dallas, TX

*Editor's Note: Judith's story about her father was quite long, interesting and informative. We hope to use an edited version in a future Spearhead and encourage her to attend the New Orleans reunion.*

### Enjoyed her time at Reunion

Thanks for a wonderful reunion. I really enjoyed my time in Illinois and with the Association.

— Cheryl Mach  
Colorado Springs, CO

### The hunt continues for past issues of *Spearhead News*

The list of *Spearhead News* editions that I have start with Spring 1998 and on through the recent Fall/Winter 2018-19. I thought I had more but was mistaken.

I do have a number of Division Reunion Journals. They include the reunions in Boston 1953, New York City 1958, Washington, D.C. 1955, and consecutive years from 1984 through 2016 with two exceptions: Albuquerque 1999 and Tucson 2001. More than likely,

*Continued on next page*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

### LIFE MEMBERS

ROBOTHAM, Cynthia – Hyannis, MA  
WERTHMULLER, Roy "Skip" Jr. – McLean, VA

### MEMORIAL MEMBERS

GALVIN, Dorothy – Pawling, NY  
RANNELL, Alice – Denver, CO  
McHENRY, Katherine – Rancho Santa Fe, CA  
TORTORELLI, Bonnie – Glendale, CA

### ANNUAL MEMBERS

GABOR, Marcie – Columbus, OH  
GILBERT, Ronald **13TH MAR-CAMPEN**  
Oceanside, CA  
GIBSON, Rebecca – Norfolk, VA  
KERIN, James R. Jr. – Cincinnati, OH  
OSBORNE, Camille – Lincoln Park, NJ  
POUNCEY, Janice Nielson – Blairsville, GA

Greg Emery would have some previous editions being the editor for many years.

— Walter O'Malley  
Clinton, MA

**Editor's Note:** *We have the issues of Spearhead News you have; however, there may be some place for them. We'd hoped to be able to get a complete set of Spearheads from the beginning. One FMDA member thought he had them, but apparently they were lost or thrown out. So we're still looking for past issues. We would be interested in the Reunion Journals you have, if you're ready to part with them.*

## A goodbye kiss

My beloved late father, Joseph Blackburn, was a young Marine who fought on Iwo Jima. I have [included below] the cover of the first edition of the *Spearhead* where my father scrawled: "Look at the last page of me and Lois kissing good by." I also [included] the photo but would love to have a copy of this first edition as I only have pieces of it.

By the way, Lois wrote my father a "Dear John" letter while he was overseas, and he met and married my mother in 1947 *after* the war. My parents had a long and devoted marriage, and my mother and I had the privilege of being by my father's side when he passed from this life onto the next in April of 2012. He was buried in his Marine Corps uniform (the reason he signed up for the Marines), but never wore or owned the uniform until several months before his death.

My father was a green kid from Berlin, Conn., who was only 17 when he signed up for war, and he shared many stories of his wartime experience.

He also loved to draw and decorated hundreds of envelopes he sent home to family and friends. His late sister saved many of them, and I donated them to the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, along with a piece of a Zero airplane that my father took home as a souvenir from Iwo Jima.

My father would later go to the Randall School of Art in Connecticut on the GI Bill and was a commercial artist. He is buried, as he wished, in the National Cemetery in Bourne, Mass.

— Cynthia Blackburn Robotham  
Hyannis, Mass.





## FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")

ADAMS, Joseph **F-2-26** 9/8/2012  
 BENDER, Bill **HS-27** 4/6/2011  
 BERRY, Neil **HQ-1-26** 11/10/2012  
 BLAIR, Lavern H. **F-2-27** 11/15/2018  
 BREWER, Loyd W. **I-3-27** 3/1/2019  
 COLLOGAN, Lyle M. **5TH JASCO** 6/22/2018  
 DARNABY, John "Jim" Jr. **5TH MED** 1/21/2019  
 DAVIS, Warren A. **5TH MED** 8/15/2014  
 DUNN, Robert **HQ-3-28** 5/20/2014  
 ESPENES, Kenneth **E-2-28** 9/22/2011  
 FRADO, James M. Sr. **D-2-26** 4/7/2019  
 FRANCISCO, Oliver C. Sr. **I-3-26** 4/25/2012  
 FRIETSCH, Edward F. **WPNS-26** 12/11/2017  
 GALVIN, Martin J. **HQ-3-26** 4/19/2019

GRANNELL, William E. "Bill" **F-2-26** 12/12/2018  
 JUSTICE, Edward L. **F-2-27** 12/29/2017  
 KAMPFF, Kenneth R. **L-3-26** 7/28/2016  
 KERIN, James R. **B-1-27** 1/9/2019  
 LAVOI, Dennie J. **WPNS-28** 6/8/2016  
 MADSEN, Erling **HS-27** 3/2/2008  
 McHENRY, Edward F. **F-2-26** 2/2/2018  
 SHAPIRO, Edwin H. **A-1-13** 1/8/2018  
 SUTTON, George W. Jr. **HQ-2-28** 4/10/2012  
 TASCHNER, Conrad R. **H-3-28** 12/12/2006  
 TAYLOR, Howard J. **I-3-13** 9/6/2018  
 WELLS, Robert **C-1-28** 6/25/2018  
 WHEELER, Richard **E-2-28** 10/21/2008  
 ZACCARELLI, Joseph **13th MAR** 7/24/2013



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 217-840-2121.



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### UPCOMING TOURS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>AUG 3 – 12</b><br/>         Guadalcanal "Turning the Tide"<br/>         Pre-Tour: "Bloody" Tarawa</p> <p><b>AUG 4 – 12</b><br/>         Morocco—WWII Operation Torch<br/>         General Patton enters WWI &amp;<br/>         French Foreign Legion Sites</p> <p><b>AUG 11 – 20</b><br/>         75th Anniversary of 2nd D-Day:<br/>         Op Dragoon South of France</p> <p><b>AUG 28 – SEP 9</b><br/>         Vietnam 50th Anniversary of<br/>         Operations in I-Corps 1969</p> <p><b>SEP 7 – 15</b><br/>         Evolution of the Western Front<br/>         WWI Battlefields &amp; Weapons</p> <p><b>SEP 10 – 22</b><br/>         Vietnam 50th Anniversary of<br/>         Operations in I-Corps 1969</p> <p><b>SEP 12 – 19</b><br/>         Peleliu Landing 75th Anniversary<br/>         as seen in HBO's "The Pacific"</p> | <p><b>SEP 17 – OCT 1</b><br/>         Ireland—LtGen Bill Maloney,<br/>         USMC Emerald Isle Memorial<br/>         Tour &amp; U.S. WWII Military Sites</p> <p><b>SEP 29 – OCT 11</b><br/>         The Holocaust &amp; the Third Reich<br/>         Amsterdam - Berlin - Munich</p> <p><b>OCT 3 – 13</b><br/>         Imperial China-Three Jewels<br/>         Beijing - Xian - Shanghai</p> <p><b>NOV 2 – 13</b><br/>         WWI Armistice Day France<br/>         U.S. Battlefields</p> <p><b>DEC 3 – 9</b><br/>         77th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor<br/>         WWII Sites &amp; Waikiki Hotel</p> <p><b>NOV 30 – DEC 11</b><br/>         Vietnam Holiday Tour</p> <p><b>JAN 4 – 11 2020</b><br/>         Panama 30th Anniversary Op<br/>         Just Cause</p> |
|--|---|

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# The letter a father never wanted to write

By John Butler,  
with Morey Butler

Morey and I accompanied our mom to the 1990 Fifth Marine Division Association's Reunion in New Orleans. We were joined by our dad's two brothers, Uncles Emile and Clinton. We met a handful of First Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment Iwo Jima survivors there, including Chuck Tatum and Dick O'Toole, the 1/27 adjutant. They were all most pleased to meet the battalion commander's lady.

After the reunion, we traveled with Mom to Hawaii, via Dallas, where we were met by our sister, Mary Jo, and brother Clint.

At the airport layover in Dallas, Talbot Rein, 1/27's S2 (intel and security) met us with photos and tales about the time with our dad before, and up to, his death. Rein, who was called "Blue" by our dad after a popular WWII song, "Blue Rain," became a very prominent lawyer in Dallas. He wrote his memoirs of the war, *Remembering Iwo*, before he died and said many good things about Dad's leadership of 1/27.

At Hawaii, we visited Dad's grave as a family for the first time. Morey and Clint had visited it during their Vietnam tours, as had my sister when she met her husband George on his R&R. While there, we found out that Mom could be interred with Dad. She expressed a desire to do so, but then later said it might be too much trouble for the family, which was not the case. After her passing in October 2003, Morey and I carried her ashes to Hawaii. She was interred in Dad's grave by the Senior Catholic Padre at Kaneohe Bay.

Ironically, the date of our father's death notification was also the date of the last bloody day on Iwo Jima. Our dad truly loved our mother. Their short life



The Butler family attends the 1990 FMDA Reunion in New Orleans, including (front left to right) Uncle Clinton, brother Morey, mother Denise, John, Aunt Ruth and Uncle Emile. They met several veterans from 1/27 (standing), including Chuck Tatum and Dick O'Toole.



The gravestone for LtCol John A. Butler and his wife, Denise, at the Punchbowl in Hawaii.

together, from the time they married in June 1936 until he departed San Diego on Aug. 12, 1944, was special.

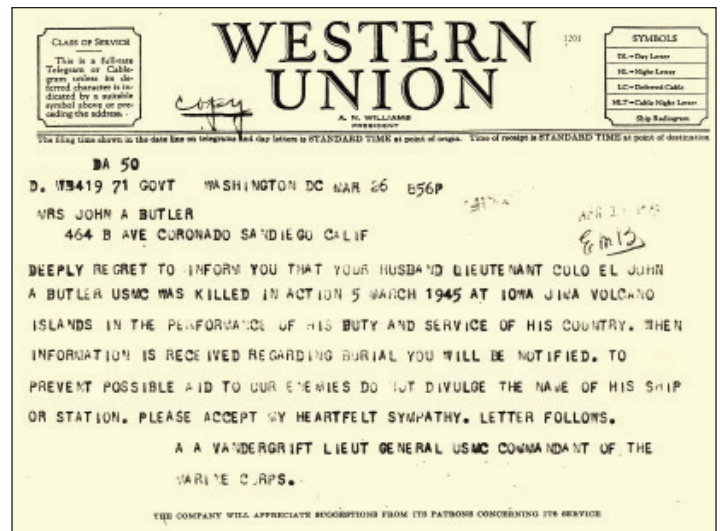
Their first years were in Panama, where Dad served as a detachment officer on the cruisers, *Trenton* and *Omaha*. These U.S. Navy warships were part of The Special Service Squadron, or "Banana Fleet," that policed the Caribbean following the Banana Wars in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Nicaragua of the 1920s and early '30s. Dad spoke fluent Spanish and had a natural charisma in dealing with Latinos. He honed these

skills while in Panama, which led to his assignment as a naval attaché to the Dominican Republic in early 1940. This followed his assignment to the Fifth Marines, then based at Quantico, where I was born in July 1939.

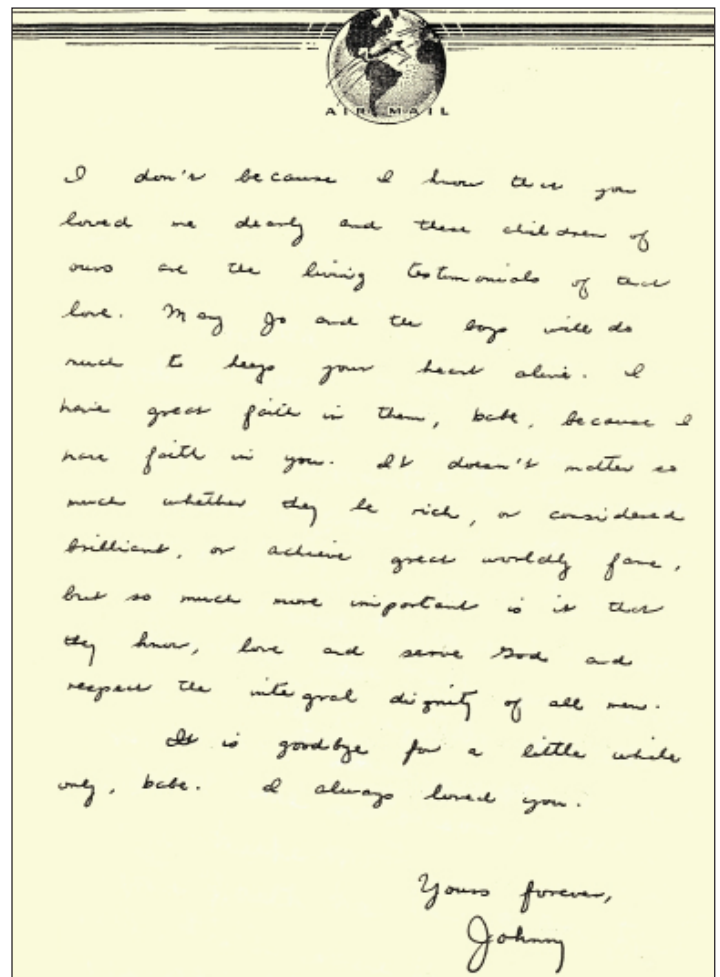
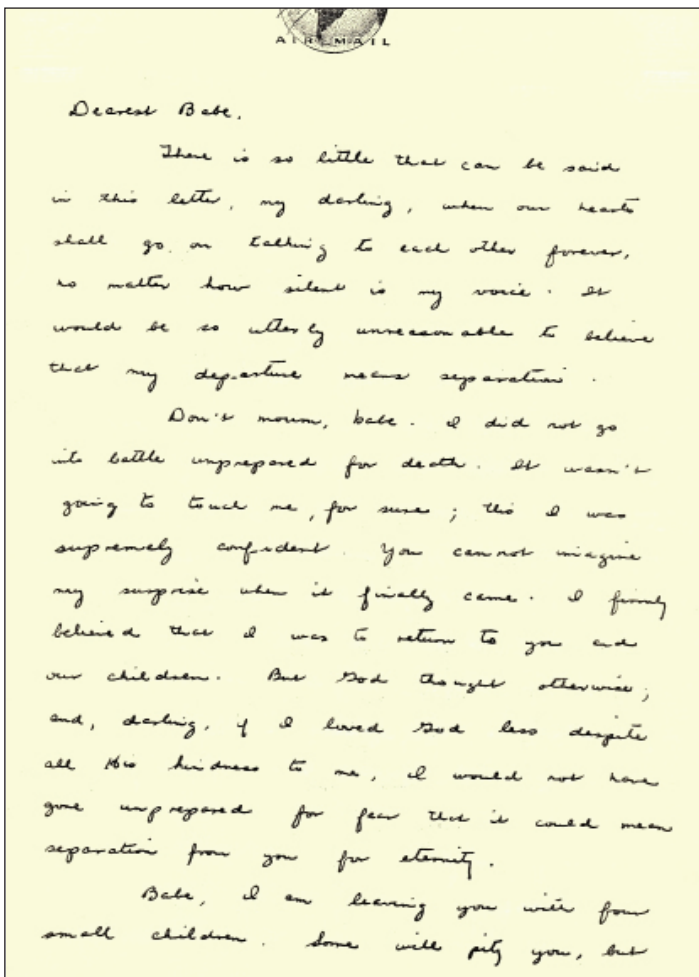
For Mom, life in the Dominican Republic with Dad was an enchanting time. When the war broke out, despite the enchantment and importance of his work, which included uncovering German and Nazi infrastructure in the Dominican Republic and was prevalent throughout Latin America, he clamored for assignment to the Fleet Marine Force so he could get in the war.

Mom had a competitor, and it was the Marine Corps, which Dad selected when he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1934. His inspiration was the writings of John W. Thomason, the Corps scribe of the era. In any case, despite efforts by the ambassador and others to keep Dad in the Dominican Republic, where Morey was born in May 1943, he reported to command and staff school at Quantico in mid-1943 and to the

*Continued on next page*



Above, a Western Union telegram, dated March 26, 1945, informs the mother of four that husband, father and LtCol John Butler has been killed on Iwo Jima. Below is a copy of the handwritten and heartfelt letter he wrote to his wife in the event he did not survive the war. A printed version of the last thoughts he wanted to leave with his family appear on the following page. This, and other letters he wrote to them, have helped keep him present in their lives.



## FATHER'S LETTER

*Continued from previous page*

Fifth Marine Division in January 1944, where he was assigned command of 1/27.

Dad, who loved and treasured his wife and family, also loved and treasured the Marine Corps, especially the command responsibility he was given with 1/27. As a man of letters, he expressed both these passions in the many letters he wrote to our mother from the time he departed San Diego until his death. These letters, including his farewell death letter, were preserved by our older sister, Mary Jo, who copied and sent them to Morey, Clint and me before our sister passed away from cancer in August 2010.

The letters, written en route to Iwo Jima from Jan. 26 to Feb. 18, were followed by two hastily penned letters while he was in combat. One from "Fox Hole Villa" on Feb. 25 and the other from "Tojo's Cave" on March 2. Both of these short letters praised the courage of his men.

Woven into all these letters, and especially in the farewell death letter, is Dad's faith in God that he shared with Mom. Our father's faith came from his devout mother—a native New Orleans Cajun gal.

Dad told Mom that if he was killed in battle, he wanted to be buried with his men. She honored his request by selecting the Punchbowl when the bodies from Iwo cemeteries were either sent home or to the Punchbowl. She even resisted his mother's desire to have him buried in his hometown of New Orleans.

When our family gathered at the Punchbowl gravesite following the New Orleans Reunion in 1990, it was a deeply emotional experience for all of us. Mary Jo produced the undated death letter and the letters Dad had written to Mom from Jan. 26 after sailing from Pearl. We sat around the gravesite reading each letter, including the undated death letter. It is a letter that the family felt should be shared with others, and our mother agreed with that, but only after her passing.

It was obviously too personal for her to be shared while she was still alive. It is with her permission that we present it to the members of our FMDA family in the *Spearhead News*, 16 years after Mom's passing.

Neither Morey nor Clint have a living memory of our dad. Clint was born in November 1944, several months after Dad's departure from San Diego with the 27th Marines and Morey was just a toddler. Growing up, they learned much about him from Mom and had to take a lot of their big brother's directions, partially

*Dearest Babe,*

*There is so little that can be said in this letter, my darling, when our hearts shall go on talking to each other forever; no matter how silent is my voice. It would be so utterly unreasonable to believe that my departure means separation.*

*Don't mourn, babe. I did not go into battle unprepared for death. It wasn't going to touch me, for sure; this I was supremely confident. You cannot imagine my surprise when it finally came. I firmly believed that I was to return to you and our children. But God thought otherwise; and, darling, if I loved God less despite all His kindness to me, I would not have gone unprepared for fear that it could mean separation from you for eternity.*

*Babe, I am leaving you with four small children. Some will pity you, but I don't because I know that you loved me dearly and these children of ours are the living testimonials of our love. Mary Jo and the boys will do much to keep your heart alive. I have great faith in them, babe, because I have faith in you. It doesn't matter so much whether they be rich, or considered brilliant, or achieve great worldly fame, but so much more important is it that they know, love and serve God and respect the integral dignity of all men.*

*It is goodbye for a little while only, babe. I always loved you.*

*Yours forever,  
Johnny*

Above are the reprinted words of the parting letter shared by LtCol John A. Butler to his wife, Emma, in the event that he did not survive the war. He died March 5, 1945, on Iwo Jima, leaving her with their four young children. Oldest son John looked to his father's letters for guidance; and years later, he served several terms as president of the Fifth Marine Division Association.

motivated by the instructions given to me in letters Dad wrote to me about my responsibility to look after my younger brothers as the oldest boy. I treasure these letters, especially the last one written to me on D-1, Feb 18.

Dad was very present in our lives as young boys because of Mom's stories about him and their life together. He still is, as is his much-loved wife—our mom, his "Honey Gal."

# Why Iwo Jima will always matter

By Steve Lopardo

Son of Fio Lopardo, 28th Marines

In a few months, we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Soon enough, all of America's warriors who fought there will be gone.

Will Iwo Jima still matter?

My father, 1st Lt. Fio Lopardo, led the remnants of H Company, 3d Bat., 28th Marines, down Bloody Gorge to the sea, which ended the battle of Iwo Jima. He was one of 11 out of 360 in his company (including replacements) that were not killed or wounded. The next day, March 26, 1945, they shed tears for their comrades at the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery below Mt. Suribachi. What was left of his battalion then boarded a troop transport for the slow voyage back to Hawaii. Unlike the voyage to Iwo, the ship was half-empty.

The Marines showered, put on new uniforms, wrote letters. The officers prepared citations for medals. The survivors tried to fully digest what they had been through. They tried to find out which of their buddies got hit. They visited their wounded in the hold. Some ate, and ate, and ate some more; others could not eat at all. Many slept for several days straight—some were too terrified to sleep. Some stared out across the ocean for hour, after hour, after hour. We can only imagine their cloud of intense, conflicting emotions as they agonized over the loss of so many brother Marines and pondered their incredible triumph on one of the most hellish battlefields of World War II.

My dad shared a poignant explanation of these feelings in a video recorded in 1996:

"I slept for 24 to 36 hours. And then after that, we'd walk; we'd meet each other aboard ship walking, and if we could have canned the feelings, the expressions, that people exchanged, and how they talked to each other, we'd never have people fighting each other. Everyone just seemed to think, boy thanks for what you did for me; thanks for what you did for me. You appreci-

ated the fact, that some fellow you didn't even know, who had to go around the corner to do something, not knowing what was there, put his life on the line, right then and there, and five minutes after he was told to go around that corner, he was dead. You couldn't help but be thankful and appreciative of what he did for you, and you didn't feel sorry for yourself, because he did it for you and everyone else, and you did it too for everyone else. You were so very appreciative of the fact that everyone was so willing to put up their lives. I thought that was just great. You had an appreciation for people that I think only those of us who have been through it will understand."

Maybe this helps explain why Iwo Jima still matters. And as long there is America, Iwo Jima will always matter.



*Fio Lopardo was the transport quartermaster on the USS Lubbock, which transported the entire Third Battalion, 28th Marines, to Iwo Jima, a very different voyage than the Marines' return to Hawaii. Each battalion was originally self-contained on one ship, so other units would not be affected if the ship went down.*

*As transport quartermaster, he was responsible for coordinating the loading of the ship in Hawaii and the unloading of it during the assault on Iwo Jima. On Feb. 24, 1945, he went ashore and took command of Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 28th Marines. On March 14, 1945, he was assigned as company commander of a rifle company, Howe Company, through the conclusion of the battle.*

*After the battle, the surviving units were randomly assigned to various ships for the return voyage; in his case, the USS President Adams. After the occupation of Japan, he graduated from Harvard Law School, and was appointed a judge by California Governor Ronald Reagan. He served in San Diego until his death in 2004.*



# Letters from home

## One young Marine's creative expressions of military life during WWII

By Cynthia Blackburn Robotham

My father, Joseph Blackburn, was not only a devoted husband and father, he was very creative, and brought that creativity to his career. He graduated from the Randall School of Art in Connecticut on the GI Bill after the war and worked for several advertising agencies before later becoming the art director at General Electric in Plainville, Conn.

He was also an artist working in oils and produced many paintings throughout his lifetime. In fact, he painted a stilllife of some of his Marine paraphernalia, and of battle scenes on Iwo Jima. Those paintings he donated to the National Cemetery in Bourne, Mass., where in accordance with my father's wishes, he now lies with others of his military kin.

However, when my father enlisted in the Marines at the tender age of 17, along with his willingness to serve his country, he brought along his colored pencils as he loved to draw from an early age. My father adored receiving mail, and although he received letters from family, friends and a host of lady friends, it was his older sister, Muriel, who was the most steadfast and dedicated letter writer.

My father's letters home began to carry an extra little embellishment, beginning in boot camp and throughout his entire military service. Cartoons depicting his military adventures were often amusing, others wistful as he longed for home, his sustained interest in the opposite sex and depictions of foreign places (China and Japan.) He also created cards for other servicemen for their families and sweethearts, including a cook who asked my father to produce a Valentine card for his girlfriend. The girlfriend was so thrilled with her boyfriend's romantic gesture that

according to my father he ate better than the officers after that!

An article was written in 1945 that appeared in the New Britain Herald about the amusement of postal works in my father's hometown of Berlin, Conn., where his mail was often delayed in being delivered as everyone wanted to see his envelopes at the local post office.

My father also sketched extensively as well, of the buildings or other comrades, and was enlisted to paint murals on the officer's mess hall walls at Camp Tarawa in Hawaii.

The only time my father had to forego his artistry was on Iwo Jima, where the only mail being sent from the battlefield happened twice and on a tiny piece of paper called V-mail.

When stationed in Tientsin, China, my father was talked into attending a party for a ballet company hosted by the Russian military by his buddy whose grandparents were Russian, and he spoke fluent Russian. American servicemen had been forbidden to go into the Russian area as several American servicemen had been killed as conflicts had erupted between the two then-allies, but nonetheless my father gullibly was "sucked in."

When they arrived, his buddy quickly began to communicate with the Russian party goers, and just as quickly began to flagrantly flirt with one of the prima ballerinas whom my father was quite certain was romantically involved with one of the Russian brass. "I'm dead," my father thought, and he crept into a corner of the room, hoping to seek escape when a tiny little ballerina in a tutu approached him and began to chatter to him in Russian. Unable to understand the child, my father brought out his pad and pencils and quickly drew a picture of Mickey

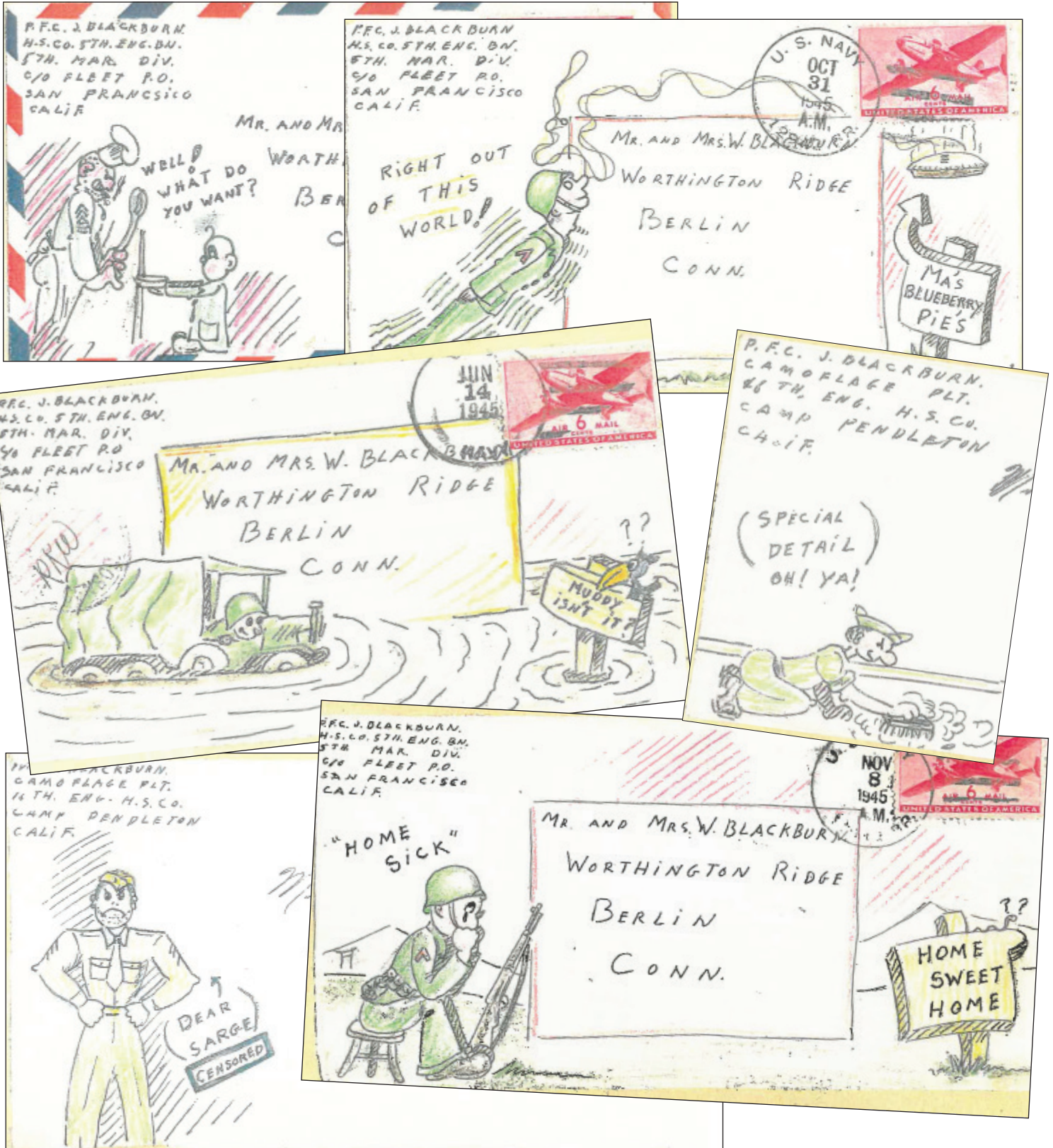


Joseph Blackburn, 5th ENGR

Mouse and handed it to the child.

Suddenly the diminutive little ballerina screeched out, "Mickey! Mickey!"—which sent a flurry of other little ballerinas running over to my father. For the rest of the evening, my father drew every Disney character he could think of, and later stated, "I think that saved my skin that night!"

Many of my father's envelopes were carefully preserved by his sister, Muriel, and many years later, after her death, my cousin Susan gave me the entire collection. I would later donate them for antiquity to the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, La., where they were on exhibit for a couple of years but are now archived along with many other military donations.



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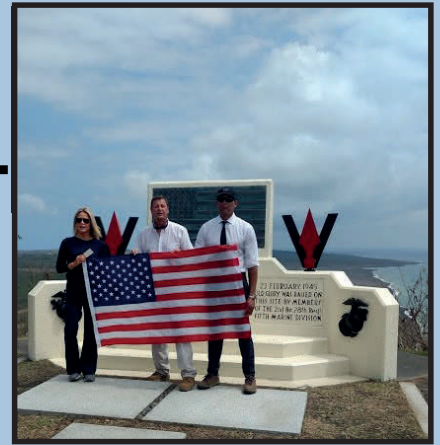
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## SECRETARY'S NOTE

If you haven't paid your dues yet, you're receiving this issue of *Spearhead News* after you should have been dropped from FMDA membership. Annual dues are \$25 (see back page for information when annual memberships expire) and use the Membership Form to send your dues. Lifetime memberships for age 64 and under is \$150; \$100 for age 55 through 79; and \$50 for age 80 and over.

Widows of deceased Iwo Jima veterans become Memorial Members and pay no dues, although some do. That is appreciated. It would also be greatly appreciated if you would find new members to join the Association. As the membership of Iwo Jima veterans dwindles, the hope is to continue a legacy-directed membership to continue remembering and honoring the service and sacrifices of the veterans who fought and died on the island 75 years ago and remembering the loss and sacrifices of the families who lost fathers, sons, brothers and sisters, sons and daughter, other relatives and friends in one of the most iconic battles of World War II and was the only battle with more U.S. casualties than the Japanese.

To maintain the legacy membership, proposed changes to the Constitution/Bylaws are included in this issue for your information. The existing Constitution/Bylaws were approved at the July 18, 1999, annual reunion business meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., when James M. Frado Sr., (D-2-26) who just passed away on April 7, 2019, was president. The members attending

the FMDA reunion and the business meeting in New Orleans in October 2019 will vote on the proposed changes.

Through the years that I've been editing *Spearhead News*, I've received stories, articles, letters and photos that have been used in the newsletter. Several are included in this issue and are greatly appreciated. They are what makes editing *Spearhead* interesting and provide the reader with interesting reading.

Walter O'Malley who served with E-2-27 on Iwo Jima just had an amusing anecdote published in *Leatherneck* magazine that happened on the Big Island while the division was back and training for the invasion of Japan, about a group of him and three buddies known as "The Clique" that purloined a case of officers' whiskey one night. It had been published in *Spearhead* several years ago. The Marines tied and bound one of their own that had guard duty in the officers' area, took the case out and buried it behind the outhouses. The shakedown of the area the next morning found nothing. But Walt said he and his buddies had a good time a couple of weeks later.

Undoubtedly, there are other stories like that to preserve, as well as some of the more serious ones that define the Fifth Marine Division and the service and sacrifices made by the men who fought and died on Iwo Jima and in Vietnam while they served with the division. I look forward to hearing them.

— Ray Elliott, Secretary



### ***You never know what you'll find ...***

John Ratomski sent information about this find of 1,800 Marine Corps combat photographs that were bought at a yard sale for \$25. A sample was shared, via Nole Bolinger to the U.S. Militarist Forum, on the Iwo Jima Survivors of New York's Capital Region Facebook page. There reportedly were 1,000-plus Iwo Jima pictures, and the rest were from Saipan and Peleliu. Most of the photos have the photographer's names, including several by Bob Campbell and Louis Burmeister.

The following is a proposed revision of the Fifth Marine Division Association Bylaws that will be voted upon at the Association's annual Business Meeting on Oct. 26 during the 2019 Reunion in New Orleans.

## FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION [PROPOSED] CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

### PREAMBLE

We, the former members of the 5th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force and attached units, established a permanent organization in order that we may be of greater service to our country and to one another, to perpetuate the name, glory and spirit of the 5th Marine Division, and to preserve the friendships formed while serving in the 5th Marine Division.

### ARTICLE I: NAME AND MISSION

SECTION 1. The name of the organization shall be the 5th Marine Division Association (hereafter referred to as the "Association").

SECTION 2. The mission of the Association, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is to unite the 5th Marine Division's WWII and Vietnam War veterans, their family members, and supporters in an exclusive fraternity of honor to perpetuate the spirit of valor, sacrifice and duty exemplified by those who served in the epic battles of Iwo Jima and Vietnam, and to advance the professional, literary and historical role of the USMC in defending the United States of America.

SECTION 3. This purpose shall be accomplished by the following social, recreational, patriotic and educational purposes:

- A. Perpetuating the memory of deceased veterans and comforting their survivors;
- B. Sponsoring reunions for the Association's members, annually or as otherwise determined by the Executive Board;
- C. Assisting needy and disabled veterans, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans;
- D. Conducting educational programs;
- E. Visiting sick and/or hospitalized veterans; and
- F. Organizing, supporting and participating in activities honoring veterans.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

#### SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The Association shall have the following categories of members:

A. Primary Membership. Any person who, during WWII or Vietnam, has honorably served in the 5th Marine Division or one of the component units, shall be eligible for Primary Membership ("PM") in the Association.

B. Family Membership. Any person over the age of 18 who embraces the Association's purpose and is related to a Primary Member, either living or deceased, or to a family member who would have been eligible for Primary Membership but was KIA (Killed in Action) ("FM"). This includes husbands and wives, sons and daughters, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and nieces and nephews.

C. Associate Membership. Any veteran from any branch of United States Military Service, and any other interested person who embraces the Association's purpose as stated, is eligible for Associate Membership ("AM").

D. Honorary Membership. Any civilian who has established a sustained history of selfless service and support of veterans' activities and organizations and community service may be nominated for honorary membership by the Executive Board ("HM"). Annual dues for Honorary Members shall be waived.

E. Memorial Membership. The spouse of a deceased member who was at the time of his death a Lifetime Member of the Association shall be designated a Memorial Member ("MM"), and annual dues shall be waived.

F. Lifetime Membership. Existing members who previously became Lifetime Members prior to the date of this Agreement shall be referred to as Lifetime Members ("LM"), and shall not be required to pay further dues.

#### SECTION 2. PERSONS EXCLUDED FROM MEMBERSHIP

A. No person shall be eligible for membership in this Association who has lost or renounced his citizenship in the United States of America, unless such citizenship has been restored. Proof of the restoration shall be submitted to the Association upon application for membership or renewal of membership.

B. No person shall be eligible for membership in the Association who is a member of any group or organization which advocates or advocated the overthrow of the government of the United States of America by force or violence.

C. The Executive Board may expel a member from the Association for just cause, i.e., failure to stay current on dues, or engagement in a criminal act.

#### SECTION 3. MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING

A. Any member of the Association who is in good standing (membership dues are current and rights as a member have not been suspended) shall have voting privileges and shall be eligible to be nominated, elected, or appointed to serve as an officer in the Association.

B. Any member who fails to pay his/her dues shall be notified by the Secretary, and if dues remain unpaid into the next calendar year, the member will be dropped from the active member rolls.

C. Membership dues will be established by the Executive Board and approved by the membership at the annual Business Meeting.

## ARTICLE III: ORGANIZATION

### SECTION 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Association shall conduct an annual reunion of its members and a General Business Meeting. At each annual General Business Meeting, the following officers and trustees shall be elected by a majority vote of (i) those members present and (ii) the written proxy vote (any form) of any other member in good standing delivered prior to or presented at the reunion. Such officers shall serve in these respective offices until re-elected or replaced at the next annual General Business Meeting. Any subsequent vacancies may be filled by appointment of the President and the approval of a majority vote of the Executive Board:

1. President;
2. Vice President; and
3. Trustees (a total of five).

### SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

A. President. The President shall serve as chief executive officer (CEO) and maintain general supervision of the policies and programs of the Association. Subject to the authority of the Executive Board, the President shall be responsible for the general and active management of the business of the Association and supervision of all other officers of the Association to see that their duties are properly performed. The President may call for Executive Board meetings as needed and shall preside at all meetings of the Association. With the advice and approval of the Executive Board, the President shall appoint members to serve in other positions or committees as needed, and shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

B. Vice President. The Vice President shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties as requested. The Vice President shall take over the duties of the President if he/she is unable to continue in that capacity.

C. Trustees. The Association shall have five (5) Trustees. If a Trustee resigns or becomes disabled and is unable to perform his or her duties, the President, upon approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a replacement. The Trustees shall take an active role in overseeing the operations of the Association. Trustees shall be responsible for assuring the financial integrity and solvency of the Association and establishing procedures to safeguard the Association from fraud and risk. The President shall consult the Trustees for advice on any matters which affect the Association.

### SECTION 3. EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. The Association shall be governed by an Executive Board consisting of the President, Vice President, and its Trustees (5). All decisions made by the Executive Board shall require a majority vote.

B. Members of the Executive Board are responsible for the smooth operation of the Association, and shall serve without remuneration.

C. Members of the Executive Board shall acquire a working knowledge of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws and be familiar with the parliamentary procedures outlined in Robert's Rules of Order.

D. The Executive Board shall have the following powers:

1. To authorize the employment of personnel and approve their compensation;
2. To suspend or revoke the membership of a member for just cause;
3. To issue decisions interpreting the Association's Constitution and Bylaws;
4. To determine which members of the Executive Board shall be bonded, and to set the amount of the bond; and
5. To exercise such power that is compatible with the best interests of the Association.

### SECTION 4. APPOINTED POSITIONS

A. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board and shall serve until relieved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

B. The following additional positions shall be appointed, as needed, by the President with approval of the Executive Board, and shall serve until relieved by a majority vote of the Executive Board:

1. Sergeant at Arms;
2. Chaplain;
3. Legal Counsel;
4. Historian;
5. Editor of the Spearhead News;
6. Webmaster; and
7. Any other position determined by the Executive Board.

### SECTION 5. DUTIES OF THE APPOINTED POSITIONS

A. Secretary. The Secretary shall record minutes of the Executive Board Meetings and General Business Meetings, and shall read those minutes at the next reunion's General Business Meeting. The Secretary shall maintain a database of the Association's members so as to show at all times the names of each member, which shall include the member's current mailing address, telephone number, email address, type of membership, whether the member's dues are current and any other information that would be pertinent. The Secretary shall also perform other duties as may be assigned, from time to time, by the Executive Board.

B. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have general supervision of the Association's finances and shall keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in the Association's bank account(s). The Treasurer shall cause all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Association in such banks of deposit as may be directed by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall take proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to

the Association's Executive Board an account of all his/her transactions in such functions and of the financial condition of the Association whenever such information may be requested. The Treasurer shall prepare and deliver a financial statement to present at the annual General Business Meetings, and as otherwise requested by the President.

C. Sergeant at Arms. The Sergeant at Arms shall maintain order within the Association by ensuring that the Constitution, Bylaws and traditions are respected by everyone and that proper parliamentary procedures outlined in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order are followed at all meetings.

D. Chaplain. The Chaplain shall serve as a source of spiritual support and offer prayers at the annual reunion Business and Memorial Meetings and Banquet.

E. Legal Counsel. The Legal Counsel shall provide clarity on any legal issues, as needed.

F. Historian. The Historian shall research and write about people and events relative to the Association.

G. Spearhead News Editor. The Editor of the *Spearhead News* shall be responsible for dispensing news of the Association to its membership. The *Spearhead News* shall be distributed electronically to active members of the Association who have provided email addresses. Printed copies shall be sent to those active members who cannot be reached via email or who have specifically requested a hard copy.

H. Webmaster. The Webmaster shall be responsible for any Association website or similar electronic media.

## ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

### SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

An Executive Board Meeting shall be held prior to the General Business meeting at the annual reunion. Additional Executive Board Meetings may be convened as necessary to conduct Association business. Telephone conferencing will be offered for any member of the Executive Board who wishes to participate in the discussion and vote, but is unable to attend the meeting in person.

A. Notice of Executive Board Meetings. Notice of all regular and special meetings of the Executive Board shall be given to each member by the President either personally, by telephone, postal service, email, or fax. Notice shall be given at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting, and each member shall notify the President if he/she will be in attendance, is unable to attend and requests a telephone conference connection, or waives his/her right to participate in the discussion and vote to be taken on any action presented. Any member of the Executive Board may have another member vote for him/her by submitting a written proxy to the President and Secretary prior to the meeting.

B. Quorum. A majority of the Executive Board members present (in person, via telephone conference, or proxy) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

C. Action. Action shall be taken by majority vote of those

present (in person, via telephone conference, or proxy) at an Executive Board Meeting. Action may also be taken without a meeting if the action so taken is signed by all members of the Executive Board and filed with the Secretary. No member of the Executive Board shall bind the Association to any agreement without the prior majority approval of the Executive Board prior to execution of the agreement.

D. Resignation. Any member of the Executive Board may resign from his/her position by delivering a written resignation to the President, with a copy submitted to the Secretary. Such resignation shall be accepted upon receipt.

### SECTION 2. GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

A. The Association shall hold its General Business Meeting at an annual reunion in such place and time as determined by the membership or, if necessary, by the Executive Board. Ample time shall be provided to conduct Association business. Any member of the Association, in good standing, when recognized by the President shall have the right to speak on any subject and all issues brought to the meeting for consideration. Any voting shall be based on majority vote of (i) those members present and (ii) the written proxy vote (any form) of any other member in good standing delivered prior to or presented at the meeting.

B. The following items of business shall be on the agenda at the General Business Meeting to be held in conjunction with any reunion(s):

1. Secretary's Report. The Secretary shall provide copies of the Minutes of the previous meeting, and these Minutes shall be read and approved by a majority vote of those active members in attendance. The Secretary shall also report on the current number of active members of the Association.

2. Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer shall provide a detailed Financial Statement accounting for all Association assets and liabilities. The Financial Statement shall be approved by a majority vote of all those active members in attendance.

3. Reports. Any committee reports shall be presented.

4. Old Business. Any business carried over from the last meeting shall be discussed and voted upon, if a motion is made to do so.

5. New Business. Any item of interest to a member in attendance shall be presented, discussed and voted upon, if a motion is made to do so.

6. Election of Officers. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor for each elected office (President, Vice President and five (5) Trustees). If there is only one (1) nominee for an office, that person may be unanimously elected to that position. If there is more than one (1) nominee for an office, the election shall be conducted by a general vote, secret ballot or in accordance with other Robert's Rules of Order methods.

7. Fundraising (such as "Matt the Marine" or in any other manner). Matt's caretaker shall report on his

activities since the last reunion, and donations to the General Fund will be collected to support Matt's activities.

## **ARTICLE V: FINANCIAL RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS**

SECTION 1. The revenue of the Association shall consist of, and be derived from, annual dues to be paid by each active member of the Association (waived for Honorary Members and Memorial Members), and from such other sources as may be approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 2. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all Association funds, and shall be responsible for the receipt, deposit, disbursement and accountability of such funds. All funds, receipts and revenue received by him/her or committed to his/her charge shall be recorded in the financial records and deposited in an Association bank account ("General Fund") within five (5) business days of receipt. He/she shall cause accounting records to be maintained for no less than ten (10) years, after which time he/she must have the approval of the Executive Board to dispose of any financial records he/she desires to destroy.

SECTION 3. All receipts shall be deposited in the bank intact; all disbursements shall be made by bank check; receipts from any source and disbursements for any purpose shall be properly supported by documentary evidence such as remittance data, receipted bills or commercial invoices. In the absence of such documents, the Treasurer shall render a certificate voucher setting forth the necessary information.

SECTION 4. Disbursements from the General Fund shall be made by the Treasurer as authorized by the Executive Board, including but not limited to, the necessary advance of cash for the annual reunion.

SECTION 5. The accounts and records of the Association funds shall be reviewed annually by an independent entity and when the Treasurer leaves office. Reports of such shall be submitted to the President for presentation to the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VI: TAX EXEMPT STATUS**

SECTION 1. The Association shall be prohibited from carrying on any activities not permitted by (a) an Association exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, (b) an Association to which contributions/donations are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

SECTION 2. Upon dissolution of the Association, after all the liabilities are satisfied, the Association shall distribute any of its remaining assets to an entity which qualifies as a non-profit, tax exempt entity pursuant to Section 501(c)(3)

of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

## **ARTICLE VII: RESTRICTION ON ACTIVITIES**

SECTION 1. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its Trustees, Officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services and to make distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Association's Mission Statement.

SECTION 2. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be to carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation or to intervene on behalf of any political candidate or party.

## **ARTICLE VIII: PROCEDURES**

### **SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to or changes in this Constitution and Bylaws shall only be effective when (i) first approved by the Executive Board at a duly-noticed meeting, (ii) delivered to all active Members for review no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Association's next annual Business Meeting, and (iii) approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Members (either present or by proxy) at the Business Meeting. Any amendments shall be effective upon approval.

### **SECTION 2. DEACTIVATION**

The Association may be deactivated upon the recommendation of the Executive Board and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members (either present or by proxy) at the annual Business Meeting. Upon deactivation, the assets of the Association shall be transferred to one or more organizations whose express purpose is to:

A. Acquire the documents, books, pictures, artifacts, memorabilia, and traditions of the 5th Marine Division;

B. 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 of the United States Marine Corps; and

C. Encourage 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.

This 5th Marine Division Association Constitution and Bylaws are established by a vote of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at the Association's convention business meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, and effective \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, and shall replace and supersede all prior versions of the Association's Constitution and governing documents.

Kathleen Painton, President

# FMDA 70th Annual Reunion REGISTRATION FORM New Orleans - October 21-27, 2019

Please print the following information as you would like it to appear on your ID Badge.

1. Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

(a) If you are an Iwo Jima Veteran, please indicate your rank, company, battalion and regiment:

\_\_\_\_\_

(b) If you are a family member of an Iwo Jima Veteran, please indicate your relationship to the veteran and the veteran's name, his rank, company, battalion and regiment:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Your email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name(s) of spouse or other guests who will be accompanying you.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have any food allergies or other special needs (transporter wheelchair or oxygen)?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Will you be making a hotel reservation when that information becomes available? If so, how many rooms/nights will you need? We need this information so the hotel representatives know how many people will be contacting them to make hotel reservations. Until then, you may contact Jimmie Watson at (504) 481-5028 or Kathy Painton (808) 880-9880 if you have any questions about the hotel reservations.

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost Per Person:	# of Persons	Total		
1. <b>Registration @ \$50 per person</b>	_____	\$ _____		
2. <b>WWII Museum @ \$60 per person</b> (Includes 2-day Admission, Movie, Stage Door luncheon & show)	_____	\$ _____	#	#
			<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
3. <b>Banquet @ \$60 per person</b> (Indicate Chicken or Vegetarian)	_____	\$ _____	CHICKEN	VEGETARIAN
	<b>Grand Total:</b>	\$ _____		

PLEASE SEND YOUR REUNION REGISTRATION FORM ASAP (MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPT. 15)  
WITH A CHECK / MONEY ORDER MADE PAYABLE TO THE FMDA TO  
**KATHY PAINTON, 62-3928 LOLI' PL H1, KAMUELA, HI, 96743**

# The Higgins Hotel and Conference Center

The Higgins Hotel and Conference Center is the official hotel of the National WWII Museum and is located adjacent to the museum. It is an upscale “Curio by Hilton” hotel with a deco design which transforms guests back to America as it was during the WWII era.

The hotel was named in honor of Andrew Higgins, a New Orleans boat builder whom Gen Dwight Eisenhower is quoted as saying, “... is the man who won the war for us.” Higgins designed the LCVPs, called Higgins boats, which made it possible for the United States to land troops directly onto the open beaches at Normandy and at battles on islands in the Pacific.

The Higgins Hotel and Conference Center is offering reunion attendees rooms at a **significantly reduced rate of \$170 - \$200 per night (including all taxes)**. The hotel is scheduled for completion in late summer, and there is no telephone contact number available at the present time. They will **begin to accept reservations on Aug. 1**.

Hotel representatives have asked that we let them know how many rooms should be allocated for the FMDA, so please **send your completed Reunion Registration Forms to Kathy Painton (ASAP)**. We would like to provide a fairly accurate estimate as soon as possible of how many people will be contacting them in August to finalize their hotel reservations.



More information about the hotel can be found on the following website:

<https://higginshotelnola.com/about>



# FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
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## 5th Marine Division Association MEMBERSHIP FORM

Office Use Only

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RE		LM	
LE		FM	
AS		MM	

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

New Membership ( ) Renewal ( ) Legacy ( ) Associate ( )

Fifth Marine Div Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
Co. Bn. Reg.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: 5th 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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.)*