



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**63RD ANNUAL REUNION - RENO, NEVADA
AUGUST 26 -30, 2012
SILVER LEGACY RESORT CASINO**

Japanese flag returned on Iwo 67 years later

By Ray Elliott

While after Fifth Marine Division Association Life Member Ernie Petersen (HQ/4/13) died in January 2010, his widow, Ruth Steffens, contacted me about returning a flag she assumed he had brought home from Iwo Jima. By that time, the 2010 annual "Reunion of Honor" on Iwo Jima had been held in mid-March, where I knew flags had been returned to Japanese officials during past meetings of the two former enemies. Since we didn't have information on the family of the soldier whose flag it had been, Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret.) and president of Military Historical Tours, whose company makes the annual trek to Iwo Jima, suggested hanging onto the flag until the 2011 "Reunion of Honor."

Which I did.

Unfortunately, a 9.0 earthquake hit Japan in early March just as MHT was leaving Los Angeles for Guam and the one-day event on Iwo Jima with veterans and others to honor the sacrifices made by the men on both sides of

the battle, and the resulting tsunami, cancelled the trip to the island. Members of the Marine Expeditionary Force, III MEF, were immediately deployed to Japan (rather than to Iwo Jima to assist with the ceremony and tour of the island) to provide supplies and humanitarian assistance to the Japanese-led relief efforts following the earthquake and tsunami that struck northern Japan on March 11.



LtGen Lawrence Snowden, F/2/23, and Yasunori Nishi, president of the Iwo Jima Association of Japan, with the flag returned on Iwo Jima March 14, 2012.

So I brought the flag home. This year, LtGen Lawrence Snowden, USMC, (Ret.), company commander of F/2/23, Fourth Marine Division during the battle for Iwo Jima, presented the flag to Yasunori Nishi, son of Baron Nishi, the

1936 Olympian equestrian champion killed on Iwo Jima on March 22, 1945. Nishi, president of the Iwo Jima Association of Japan, reportedly took a keen interest in the flag. And at a regularly scheduled ceremony at the Yasukuni Shrine, located in Chiyoda, Tokyo, Japan, a large number of people who are members of the

Continued on page 6



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SPEARHEAD NEWS

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RENO

"The Biggest Little City in the World"

August 26 – 30, 2012

For the Branson reunion, we spent a lot of time developing an itinerary of things to do. At Reno, the attractions are varied and too scattered to attempt any group-type activities and chartering a daily bus would be far too expensive. Consequently, I am recommending carpooling with friends who have the same interests or join together and rent a car.

Phone numbers and websites are provided for the development of a personal agenda. Note: Given the budget problem Nevada presently has, many of the state-sponsored activities are on a reduced schedule, so double-check the dates and hours of operation before finalizing plans.

If you are driving, the Silver Legacy Resort/Casino is accessible from both 395 and 80 freeways with plenty of valet or self-parking at the hotel. If you are flying, the airport is four miles from the hotel. The resort provides shuttle service from 5 a.m. to midnight, every 30 minutes. (See Registration Form on page 11.) Here are other phone numbers and websites for some attractions/entertainment information:

Eldorado Hotel Casino – (800) 648-5966
www.eldoradoreno.com

(This property is co-located with the Silver Legacy.)

Virginia City Visitor Center – (800) 718-7587
visitvirginiacitynv.com

Carson City Visitor Center – (775) 687-7410
visitcarsoncitynv.com

Lake Tahoe Cruises – (800) 23 TAHOE
zephyrcove.com

(Contact for time and reservations for a 2-hour ride aboard a paddle-wheeler.)

The earlier you request the better, as any and all complimentary function space will be base on our sleeping room commitments – board meeting room, hospitality room, theater and banquet rooms.

See you in Reno!

— Tom Kalus
President

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



Assistance for those who want to return war relics

After editing *Spearhead* for several years and traveling to battlefield sites on Iwo Jima, Guam and Saipan, in the Philippines, and touring the Big Island of Hawaii where the Fifth Marine Division trained at Camp Tarawa prior to the landing on Iwo Jima, I'd become accustomed to Marines returning flags, photos and other souvenirs taken on the islands or traded for with a carton of cigarettes during the Occupation of Japan.

Steve Lapardo of Falbrook, Calif., was finally able, after his father's death, to return a photo a Japanese soldier who surrendered had given him and asked that it be returned to his family, if it were ever possible. (See "The conclusion of the hunt for Taizo Sakai" in the Spring 2009 issue of *Spearhead* at www.talespress.com/Spearhead_Spring2009.pdf.)

Lapardo, an attorney, searched tenaciously for the soldier for several years, but to no avail.

Then a fortuitous meeting with a group of Japanese while he was on a helicopter skiing trip in Alaska ultimately led to success. One of the Japanese went home and began searching in interest in every possible venue, including newspaper ads.

"While the newspaper advertisements brought no leads," Lapardo wrote, "they did catch the attention of Tatsuya Kishimoto, a producer of a film company, Shizuoka Broadcasting System (SBC), a Japanese equivalent to '60 Minutes.'" Tatsuya decided to do a reality TV series focusing on the search for Sakai and his family – which eventually led to Lapardo returning the photo to the family in the last of the four-part series that was reportedly well received in Japan.

And Robert Buckner of Elkader, Iowa, was able to return a flag he'd bought for a carton of cigarettes from a Japanese woman during the Occupation of Japan. (See "Japanese lawmaker thanks vet for relic's return" in the Winter 2009 issue of *Spearhead* at www.talespress.com/Spearhead_Winter2009.pdf.)

Like so many other veterans who brought souvenirs home from the war and stored them away, Buckner forgot about the flag for years — until a Japanese contingent visited the Iowa school where he was superintendent. He

showed them the flag and was told about "the family history that was recorded on it."

With that information and articles he had seen "in various publications concerning veterans returning souvenirs to the relatives of their former enemies," he decided to see if he could return the flag.

Buckner didn't remember the name of the village where he'd gotten the flag, but it was near Kumamoto, a city that had now grown to a population of 670,000. Not knowing what else to do, Buckner packaged up the flag and sent it, along with a letter of explanation, to the mayor of Kumamoto.

A long shot, to be sure. But it turned out that the mayor knew exactly the family whose flag it was: Mizuo Fukushima's. She was "the granddaughter of the woman Buckner had bought the flag from." And she "was the leader of Japan's Social Democratic Party and a member of the House of Councilors, the upper house of Japan's Diet (congress)."

Another success story. Obviously, all returned souvenirs aren't as successful as these two. And not all veterans want to give back what they have brought home. Some remain stored away and are left to the veterans' offspring; some end up in museums. Wherever they are or what becomes of them, it would seem that these relics of that long-ago war be treated with respect and dignity in hopes that our two countries will remain good friends and allies in a dangerous world.

Perhaps it's only a token of a larger plan for peace, but if you have any souvenirs taken from the Japanese during World War II you'd like to return, please make an effort to do so. Military Historical Tours (www.miltours.com) takes veterans to battlefields sites throughout the Pacific and makes every effort to return flags and other souvenirs to the Japanese so they may end up back with the families.

MHT president, retired Marine Col Warren Wiedhahn (and Chosin Reservoir survivor from the Korean War) is looking for Japanese artifacts to return to the families of the deceased next March on the annual "Reunion of Honor" tour on Iwo Jima. Historical consultant Dan King (www.historicalconsulting.com) has helped veterans return artifacts to Japanese families for years.

Why do they do this?

"Because it's the right thing to do," Col Wiedhahn said. "Those young Japanese soldiers were doing for their country what our Marines were doing for the United States, doing what they were told to do. I can guarantee you, none of them wanted to fight and die on Iwo Jima, on either side of the battle!

"In addition, why should the families be deprived of items to remember their loved ones. I've even had dinner in Beijing with Chinese soldiers who were trying to kill me in the Chosin Reservoir!"

Hope to hear from some of you about your souvenirs.

Reader likes book, but inquires about personal interviews

Thank you for the work you put into the *Spearhead News* since taking over the duties of the editorship of the late Mr. Bert Clayton. I was encouraged to join the 5th Marine Division Association by him back in the spring of 2004, which I did in honor of my dad's memory (Warren S. Palmer, 1919-1986, AAC, B-29 tailgunner) and the Marines. We talked by mail and on the phone on many occasions over those years, including an article that Mr. Clayton wrote about a Marine that I helped collaborate on with information from research.

I wanted to bring up an error or misleading quote in the Book Review section on page 15 of the Fall/Winter 2011 issue of Gail Chatfield's fine book, titled *By Dammit, We're Marines*.

I have this book, read it and agree with the newspaper's review of it.

The problem is with one interview (which she says she interviewed all 52 men in her acknowledgments page). The Marine is Edgar Steinau, B Company, 5th Tank Battalion, 5th Marine Division. I believe she contacted him and talked with him before his passing, but the recollections printed in the book are not from her interview. I will explain.

The copyright on the book is 2008. Since I was not aware of Gail Chatfield's book, I had written Mr. Steinau a letter in October 2008, finding his name in an old Ohio newspaper article about Iwo Jima. Mrs. Steinau passed my letter on to her daughter-in-law to contact me. She called me, thanking me for my interest, but told me that Edgar Steinau had died in September 2007. She wanted to help me and asked if I would be interested to read Mr. Steinau's memoir of Iwo Jima that he wrote in 1986. The granddaughter in New York State had a copy and could send it to me. I thanked her, saying yes, and she told me he wrote it back then to relieve himself of the nightmares and "those feelings," as she called it, of what he went through.

She excused herself, saying it was still a little emotional, despite that time passing of his death, because she said that in the last week of his life in the hospital (dying from cancer), Mr. Steinau was reliving the war over again. I felt bad, but understood her feelings and apparently the memoir did help him over the years, but

the buried feelings resurfaced near the end of his life. A week later, Mr. Steinau's granddaughter did contact me and sent me the memoir of Iwo Jima (a copy showing his listing of the year 1986).

Gail Chatfield's version of Mr. Steinau's memoir is an edited version of the 1986 copy. The granddaughter sent me the UNEDITED version of the 1986 memoir, which is many passages throughout the memoir, but Gail Chatfield makes no mention of that and is passing this off as her talk with him.

I only found out about this after getting Gail Chatfield's book. That is misleading to the buyer of the book, to a book reviewer (magazine, newspaper) and an editorial note by her at the beginning or end of the chapter, telling of this 1986 memoir would have been appropriate.

It does not take away from her good work, but it puts into question how many of these men did she really interview or just have a talk? In Mr. Steinau's case, when she talked with him, did he suggest she use this 1986 memoir because he was ill with cancer or perhaps there were some things he could not remember?

– David W. Palmer
Union1863@aol.com

Editor's Note: *The following is author Gail Chatfield's response:*

Thank you, Mr. Palmer, for your kind words, as well as critique of my book. I'm concerned that you think I am misleading readers, so I want to respond to your letter.

As a daughter of a Third Marine Division Marine who served on Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima, I was interested in knowing what my father experienced during the war. He died when I was young, and his stories are lost forever. So I spoke to Iwo veterans.

Edgar Steinau's son, Steve, contacted me after reading an editorial I wrote about the Iwo Marines. He said his dad was on Iwo and had written his memoirs about that battle. Would I be interested in his story? While we tried to put together a personal interview, the senior Steinau's health would not permit it. With Steve and Edgar's permission, I edited his memoirs to be included in the book and attributed it to him. It was probably what he would have told me had his health been better.

Just to give you insight into writing this book, I collected 60 veterans' stories, but my publisher said there

was only room for 45. I wanted all 60 because each story was fascinating. I arm-wrestled to use an 11-point font, instead of the customary 12-point, so I could get a dozen more pages and a few more stories. So with great disappointment, I edited it to 52 veterans' stories. Edgar Steinau's made the cut. In my acknowledgments, I did say that I interviewed 52 veterans but that number had been rewritten many times as we negotiated the head count. In the final editing, we counted up 52 stories and inserted that number. Obviously we missed that Edgar's story and Angelo Dugo's letters are not exactly "interviews." Another veteran, Nicholas White, was part interview and part his written story. Sometimes re-living the past is difficult. I'll make sure I change the phrasing in the third edition. But rest assured, the veterans were interviewed, their stories edited by me, returned to them for approval and each man signed off on his story. The families of Steinau and Dugo signed off on theirs.

Several of the veterans died while the book was going through the publishing process, so that part of the acknowledgments changed far too often as we added one after the other. The first edition lists three deceased veterans, but another died while the book was being printed. The second edition lists 10. If I do a third edition, that number will sadly increase by several more.

I hope this satisfies your questions. If you are ever in San Diego, please let me know and you are welcome to review the many boxes of taped interviews.

Again, thank you for your kind comments about my book. Saving these men's stories was an expensive labor of love for me.

– Gail Chatfield

College history students enhance veteran's trip back to Iwo Jima

I was one of the 10 veterans accompanied by 10 Ohio State history major students sponsored by The Greatest Generations Foundation on the trip to Iwo Jima this year. The foundation is making a video of each individual veteran on the foundation's tour – three were Navy and seven of us Marines.

One of the Marines was "Iron" Mike Mervosh. His final assignment was the Fleet Marine Force Pacific Sergeant Major. His rank as of Feb. 14, 1958, as a sergeant major made him the most senior enlisted man of all the Marine forces. He retired Sept. 1, 1977, with 35 years.

The students had Dale Dye as an "instructor of battles" as we traversed our six-plus days of Guam, Saipan, Tinian and then Iwo Jima battlefields. Dale Dye is a well-known author and provider of information and training for actors depicting Marines in HBO's *The Pacific*.

It was a fantastic experience for me. Because I was only in the Iwo Jima battle, I downloaded material on all the other battles to be better informed, knowing we were to visit all these battle sites. Several of the other Marines and one Naval member were in the other three battles we covered, and several other battles we did not cover.

On June 16 in Waterloo, Iowa, at the Sullivan Brothers Grout Museum, there [was] a full day of presentations made regarding this "return trip to Iwo Jima." I [was] there, of course, as well as my Ohio State college student, Caitlin Bentley. Our museum staff provided a video presentation, and [hopefully] the video presentation prepared by the foundation.

Since the 50th anniversary in 1995, I have spoken on WWII and Iwo Jima to several thousand students, service club members and other organizations. My real reason for accepting the trip by the foundation was because there were college history students present. It was a very fulfilling trip for me because of this.

On the list of those present that I received after returning home, I think I counted only 17 veterans attending, out of approximately 275 total U.S. attendees. Soon, there will be none that can make the trip.

Thank you for all the great work you have been doing. I hope to see you at upcoming events such as the Iwo Jima Survivors Reunion and Symposium next year.

– David C. Greene, HQ/3/26
Waterloo, Iowa

Grateful for making Iwo trip possible

I was so glad that I was able to attend the 67th reunion on Iwo Jima in March. Thanks to Laura Leppert, wife of former Dallas mayor Tom Leppert, who made it possible for me to make the trip. She and Deborah Guerriero are co-founders of Daughters of World War II here in Dallas. She sponsors an event each February to celebrate the Iwo Jima anniversary as he father was an Iwo Jima veteran.

– Clyde W. Jackson, F/2/28
Dallas, Texas

RETURNED FLAG

Continued from page 1

association but didn't go to Iwo Jima, examined the flag and were told of its history and how it was returned.

Which was great to hear and reinforced the effort to return the flag. But there was a twist.

According to Dan King, Japanese linguist and historical consultant who had translated the writing on the flag, "They say the Japanese soldier whose flag this once belonged to didn't die on Iwo Jima. The name 'Kenzo Matso' is not found on their Iwo Jima war-dead roster."

Ruth Steffens, who had found the flag after Ernie's death, knew nothing about it before and had married Ernie after both of their spouses had died. She said as far as she knew he was not in any other island campaign during the war. That was later verified.

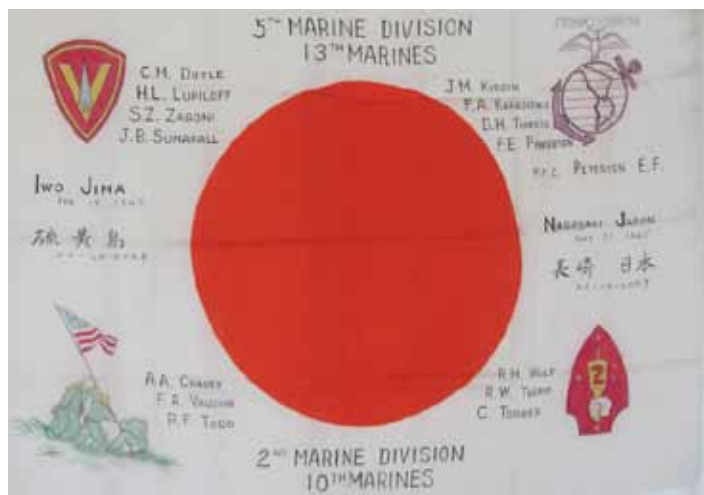
Ruth said Ernie was in Nagasaki during the Occupation and had "a couple of albums of photos of the bombing sites." So it is possible that he got the flag in Japan during the Occupation. Ruth had also sent two flags (one pictured above) that she suggested be kept by the Fifth Marine Division Association. Checking the names on the flags, I found only one of Ernie's buddies (Charles Doyle Sr. in HS/4/13) in his outfit on Iwo Jima and in the Occupation in Japan who was a member of the Fifth Marine Division Association.

Charlie Doyle lived in Yermo, Calif. I spoke to to his son and learned that his father had died in January 2012. The son said Ernie had visited some 10 years ago, that his father also had a flag and other items but knew nothing about where the flags had been picked up. So the flag could have come from the Second Division men listed on the flags, since the division was in other battles.

Back to Dan King: "On Kenzo Matsui's battle flag there is a signature by a LtGen Shoushou, but the name of the high-ranking officer is so beautifully handwritten [in Japanese] it is hard to read, but I could make out the rank. That might give the Japanese a clue where he came from, if if the officer was a relative."

Then Dan received information from a friend in the IJAJ who told him that "they were able to read the name of LtGen Tomotoki Kobe (1890-1983), mistakenly listed in some English websites as Hiroshi Kobe."

"We are not sure of the connection between LtGen Kobe and the flag's owner, Kenzo Matsuo. Basically, it seems Kobe has no direct connection to Iwo Jima. Kobe was a colonel as the commander of the 11th Infantry Regiment in Burma until he was promoted in August



One of the flags Ernie Petersen brought back from Japan.

1944 and given command of the 54th Infantry Brigade also in Burma Theater. He survived the war and died in 1983. Because Kobe signed the flag with the rank of lieutenant general we know the flag dates sometime after 1944."

Ruth later e-mailed that she had received a letter from the Japanese Office of Foreign Affairs, thanking her for returning the flag, but advising her that they couldn't find out to whom the flag belonged.

Then Yasunori Nishi wrote, "After we returned to Tokyo, we started search for the family of the original owner of the flag referring our data and list of the war dead on Iwoto. Unfortunately, we could not find the name Mr. Kenzo Matsuo who should be the owner of the flag anywhere in the list. So we came to think that the flag was obtained, not on Iwoto but somewhere else, such as Guam, Saipan, Tinian, etc. Therefore, we requested on April 27 the Social Welfare and War Victims Relief Bureau, Ministry of Labor, Health & Welfare, to continue the search for Kenzo Matsuo. Then on May 14, we received the note from the Ministry that they were also unsuccessful to find the name after going through their own data materials and sending inquiries to all prefectures.

"Thus, the result of the investigation was no one on our side was successful to find the family of Kenzo Matsuo. So we decided to enshrine the flag which made it home 67 years after the war at the War Museum (Yushu-kan) of Yasukuni Shrine. Through the good office of Chief Priest Ichihashi, it became an official part of their collection on May 23, to tell the story and give lessons of war forever.

"Although it took a while since we received the flag on March 14, please convey our gratitude for and the homecoming of the flag that was kindly returned to Japan."

Japanese war widow makes peace amulets for Iwo visitors

By Dan King

Mrs. Teruko Abe (The-ROO-koe AH-beh) is the only Japanese WWII war widow to visit Iwo Jima year after year. She was an army nurse during the war in China where she met her future husband, a wounded army corporal named Tadashi Abe. After his discharge, they were married and had a family. But as the war situation worsened, he was recalled.

He was in the Nishiyana Platoon, 1st Company (HQ), 20th Independent Mortar Battalion, 2nd Mixed Brigade, 109th Division, under Gen Tadamichi Kuribayashi, Japanese commander on Iwo Jima. The 20th Mortar Battalion had six of the heavy Type 98, 320 mm “spigot” mortars and 12 heavy mortars, which were used with deadly accuracy and skill on Iwo Jima. His remains were never recovered. Mrs. Abe never remarried, but raised their

daughter alone and worked as a nurse long in to her 70s.

Mrs. Abe is now 96 years old and spends several months making amulets by hand, including the envelopes, to be given to Americans who visit Iwo Jima in the hopes we will all strive to ensure our two nations never go to war again. The amulets are made from silk kimono material and are called “kai awase” (kye ah-WAH-say), which means “two halves of a clam shell coming together.” It symbolizes the peaceful union of two sides coming together to make up a whole, like two hands folded in a prayer.

The amulet is believed to prevent illness while bringing good fortune because it is imbued with the good will of the amulet’s creator.



King, author of The Last Zero Fighter, is a historical consultant who has worked on several movies. www.historicalconsulting.com



Teruko Abe (left) and Cpl Tadashi Abe in 1939.



Mrs. Abe’s brother, Kiyoshi Kageyama, with Abe. Kiyoshi died in the invasion of Wake Island on Jan. 23, 1941.

FOREVER YOUNG

By Clyde Jackson

After all these years
I still think of them often
I still see their faces

Their names were
William and Clayton
George and Ted
Chief Charlo and Harry
And so many others

They were different in height
Their weights varied
Some were smart
Some were average
Some were plain
Some were handsome
But in the most terrible way
They were all equal

A bullet smashing into your skull
Did not care about your height or weight
The deadly shards of the mortar round
Did not care if you were average or smart
The artillery shell shrapnel piercing your body
Did not care if you were plain or handsome
You were all equal

Looking in the mirror
I see how much I have changed
In the past 67 years
But those faces of long ago
Will always live in my heart
Forever young

Jackson, F/2/28, lives in Dallas.

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- ★ 2—12 Aug 70th Anniversary Guadalcanal
& Pre-Tour to Tarawa & Post Tour Fiji
- 30 Aug—10 Sep MHT’s 25th Anniv Ireland Dublin &
Southern Counties plus Navy vs. Fighting Irish Football
- 25 Aug—7 Sep Vietnam I Corps “Chu Lai to the DMZ”
- ★ 25 Aug—8 Sep Vietnam 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam
War Op SHUFLY “Saigon to the DMZ”
- 31 Aug—7 Sep Napoleonic War 200th Anniversary Napoleon’s
Grande Armée Invasion of Russia—Moscow—Borodino
- 15—28 Oct China Marines & U.S. Involvement 1835—1949
- 27 Jan – 6 Feb ‘13 World War II in the Philippines
- 17 Feb – 3 Mar ‘13 45th Anniv of
Tet Offensive & Hue City
- ★ 8 – 15 Mar ‘13 68th Anniv
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FINAL MUSTER



("Roll Call of the Reef")

BAKER, Richard E. **HQ-3-26** Not provided
 BLEVINS, Vester E. **HQBN**, 08/6/2011
 CLAIRE, Wesley H. **B-1-28** 12/2/11
 ELLIS, Col John H. **3RD JASCO**, 04/16/12
 GLENNON, Edward V. 04/17/12
 GLOVER, Body **F-2-27** Not provided
 GORSHA, John A. **5TH TANK** 01/06/12
 KAPUT, Henry J. 12/24/11
 KISTLER, Robert F. **WPNS-28** 01/6/12
 KRAMER, Clyde L. **5TH MAR DIV** 01/1/12
 LESLIE, Richard B. **A-1-28** 11/20/11
 PELL, Robert V. **I-3-28** 08/30/11
 REID, Don H. **HS-27** 12/31/11
 SEABECK, Frank E. **HS-3-26** 02/12/12
 STRATTON, Leonard **H-1-28** 11/11
 THOMAS, James D., **5TH TANK** 02/8/12
 THOMPSON, Charles, **B-1-26**, 10/16/11
 TOWNE, Harry **I-3-27** 02/18/12
 WHITEHEAD, Daniel **HS-2-13** 03/07/12
 WILSON, James **HQ-3-26** 04/19/12



Editor's Note: Please send Final Muster notices (including name, unit and date of death) by email to Spearhead Editor at talespress@talespress.com, by USPS to Spearhead Editor, 2609 North High Cross Road, Urbana, IL 61802 or by calling 217-384-5820.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

COREY, Marla **ASSOC**
 GAFFORD, Thomas **K-4-13, C-1-13, H-3-13**
 WHITEHEAD, Theresa **ASSOC**

Life Members:

BATALON, Felipe **G-2-26**
 CARLSON, John **B-1-28**
 RAY, Frank Louis **FOX-2-13**
 PACK, R. Dale **HS-2-26**
 STEWARD, Edgar **USN C/MED**
 STEWART, Robert **M-4-13**

Secretary's Corner

Summer is upon us, and it is almost time for the reunion. I am looking forward to it and catching up with many of you. As an accountant, February to May was pretty busy for me, preparing tax returns and other year-end reports. Thank you for your patience during that time while I was trying to return emails and phone calls. I tried to get to all of you.

The Association's longtime secretary, Ted and Joyce Overgard, have relocated. They left Harrison, Ark., for Grass Valley, Calif., to be closer to their family. Joyce had a stroke this spring and is recovering well. When I last spoke with Ted, they are hoping to be in Reno with us.

We have a new treasurer: Monroe Ozment (HQ-2-28). After many years of service to the Association, Jim Shriver has stepped down, and Monroe has taken on that responsibility.

At the Branson reunion, I mentioned I would follow-up with the IRS regarding our tax-exempt status and by-laws. We are compliant as we are.

In 1953, the IRS provided the Association with a non-profit designation and identification number. The IRS affirmed our non-profit 501(c)(4) classification in November 2008 in response to the Association's request to change our designation to the 501(c)(14) classification. The IRS did not act on that request and left us as a 501(c)(4) organization. I contacted the IRS in November, and they again confirmed we are a 501(c)(4) organization, and they did not note any open issues with our organization. When I inquired about changing which classification we were organized under, I was informed that since our original classification was valid they would not change it. We have an active and clean non-profit 501(c)(4) status. With that, our Association's organization documents should be fine and require minimal changes, if any.

I hope to see you in Reno.

— Tony De Santis
Secretary



**Third Marine
Division Assoc.
REUNION
August 21-26
San Diego, Calif.
GYGEE@aol.com**

Schedule of Events

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 63RD REUNION

SUNDAY, 26 AUGUST - THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST 2012

SUNDAY, 26 AUGUST

2 pm - 6 pm

Reunion Registration Open

6 pm - 9 pm

Welcome Reception

MONDAY, 27 AUGUST

8 am - 10 am

Reunion Registration Open

10 am - Noon

Executive Committee & Invited Officers Business Meeting

TUESDAY, 28 AUGUST

8 am - 10 am

Reunion Registration Open

10 am - Noon

Auxiliary Meeting

WEDNESDAY, 29 AUGUST

10 am - Noon

General Membership Meeting

THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST

10 am - 11 am

Memorial Service

5:30 pm - 6 pm

Group Pictures

6 pm - 7 pm

Cash Bar Reception

7 pm -

Banquet

FRIDAY, 31 AUGUST

11 am

Close Station March Order

The Hospitality Room will be open throughout the Reunion.

There are no scheduled activities. Games, shows and shopping are nearby.

There are many choices for your leisure hours.

A few of them are:

1. At the Eldorado (next to the Silver Legacy), the production, *Oh, What a Night*, features the music of Frankie Valle and the Four Seasons. Tickets at the hotel or phone ahead (800) 879-8879. A package of dinner and the show is also available.
2. The National Automobile Museum (one of the top 10 in the nation)
3. The Nevada Museum of Art (host to Picasso, Monet, Rafael — just to name a few)
4. Visit the historic Thunderbird Lodge.
5. Visit the Mustang Ranch, the state's first legal brothel. Grab a souvenir — nothing more.
6. Circus Circus has a free dog performing show, among other shows.
7. Golf at any one of the 50 courses nearby.
8. Get married at one of Reno's chapels!
9. Take a Paddlewheeler ride on Lake Tahoe at Zephyr Cove.
10. Visit Virginia City and pan for gold; tour an abandoned mine shaft; visit Boot Hill; see Mark Twain's old office; shop or have a drink at the Bucket of Blood Saloon.

***Assistance for ideas and/or specific events and entertainment
is available at the Adventure Desk at the Silver Legacy.***

Registration Form
FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 63RD REUNION
SUNDAY, 26 AUGUST - THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST 2012

HOTEL INFO:
 EARLY RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
SILVER LEGACY
 \$75/Night, Including Taxes
 407 N. VIRGINIA ST., RENO, NV (800) 687-8733 CODE: MDA812

- Send a check or money order payable to: **FIFTH MARINE DIVISION REUNION**
 c/o LtCol Thomas Kalus
 98-1927 Wilou St., Aiea, HI 96701
 For More Information: 808-486-5004
- Phone orders and credit card orders will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation.
- **All registration forms & payments must be received by mail on or before 1 August 2012.**
 After that, registration will be accepted on a space-available basis only.
- We suggest that you make a copy of your completed form prior to mailing.
- Cancellation must be received no later than 15 August 2012.

	PRICE PER PERSON	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
REGISTRATION (includes members, auxiliary and guests)	\$25.00		
BANQUET (includes taxes and gratuity)	\$35.00		
Select number of meal choices below: _____ Breast of Chicken, Glazed with Crabmeat and Fontina Cheese _____ Baked Filet of Salmon, Parsley and Tarragon Crust, Lime Butter Sauce _____ Roast Prime Rib of Beef, Rosemary Juices, Creamed Horseradish <i>All dinners include salad, dessert, coffee, decaffeinated coffee, assorted herbal teas and iced tea.</i>			
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION:			

Please PRINT all information below that is applicable to you:

Name: _____ Rank: ____ CO: ____ BN: ____ Regiment: _____
 Dates of Service: _____ To: _____ Theater of Operation: _____
 Battles: _____
 Name of Spouse and/or Guest: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State & Zip: _____ Phone: _____
 Disability/Dietary Restrictions: _____
 Are you staying at the hotel? [] Yes [] No Are you [] Flying [] Driving [] RV?

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Tony De Santis, Secretary
 2560 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Ste 200
 Clearwater, FL 33765

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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:
 5th Marine Division Association
 Tony De Santis, Secretary
 2560 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Ste 200
 Clearwater, FL 33765

Date of birth (for Life Membership): _____

Office Use Only

LGR		LF	
DB		NM	
CRD		FM	
ADS		NL	

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.)