



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**69TH ANNUAL REUNION - CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, IL
OCTOBER 16-21, 2018
HYATT PLACE CHAMPAIGN/URBANA**

FMDA Secretary Elliott to host 2018 reunion

By Ray Elliott

My initial connection with the Fifth Marine Division was with a family friend and local barber, Oral "Ben" Correll, who served with A-1-28 on Iwo Jima and was wounded on 22 February 1945 on the east side of the island after the company had cut across the narrow corridor under Mount Suribachi. I've written about Ben in past issues and always recall him telling me that he rolled back on the gurney as he was being hoisted up the side of the hospital ship and saw "Old Glory" flying on Suribachi and told me with watery eyes that he'd "never see anything again so beautiful."

Remembering little while the war was still raging but then growing up in the shadow of it during my youth and formative years with veterans all around my small southern Illinois village and countryside,



2018 Reunion hosts Ray Elliott and Vanessa Faurie

Ben and an older cousin, Bruce Elliott, who landed on Omaha Beach with the 741st Tank Battalion, were the two I was around most and looked up to from my first memory of them. Ben grew up just a few miles to the east of our home, and Bruce went to work for my father after the war.

In a two-man barber-shop, I'd sit patiently, counting who was next, and if my turn came with the other barber, I'd quietly say, "I'm waiting for Ben." By the time I was about 10 years old, I'd

decided I was going to the Marine Corps when I got old enough and jumped up in Ben's chair one day and told him I wanted a "boot camp" haircut. He laughed and asked if my dad knew about that. I said, "Oh, yeah."

My father never said anything until we got just north of town on the way home and looked over and



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THE SPEARHEAD NEWS

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 of the Fifth Marine Division Association*

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Hats off to FMDA Vice President Kathy Painton and the folks on the Big Island who made the return to the place the 15 Iwo Jima veterans and the rest of the Fifth Marine Division trained for the iconic island battle more than 70 years ago such a memorable event. Many people helped, but Keala Rhodes, cousin to the late Hawaii state senator and Marine veteran Gil Kahele, really did yeoman’s work in getting several local restaurants to donate food to feed the reunion group.

And if the response from those veterans and their families and friends—some 86 attendees total—is any indication of the future well being of the Association, we’re in good shape. Kathy and her forces are still working with Parker Ranch and local politicians to secure a site for the Camp Tarawa Museum that Sen. Gil Kahele was working for at the time of his death. The senator’s son, Kaiali’i (who was appointed to fill his father’s seat and later won election for himself), State Rep. Cindy Evans, former Gov. Neil Abercrombie and others are also behind the museum effort.

There were many highlights of the reunion, but one that sticks out in my mind is when the bus and shuttle turned down the street to the Parker School in Waimea/Kamuela for a gathering in the same theater the veterans used for performances at Barbara Hall USO during WWII and school kids waving American flags lined both sides of the street. More than one tear had to be wiped from several of the veterans and others in the group. On the way inside the building, the veterans moseyed along shaking hands and talking to the kids. It took quite awhile for everybody to get inside, get seated and start the program where the school’s director welcomed everybody, Kathy showed slides from her “Boots on the Ground” presentation and then asked the veterans to share memories of Camp Tarawa in a question-and-answer session with the audience.

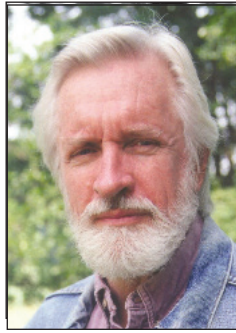
The students had also created a number of cards for the veterans, thanking them for their service.

These veterans—all in their 90s—had traveled from all over the United States—some against the advice of their doctors and some in wheelchairs—to make the reunion. For example, John Coltrane (L-4-13) traveled from his home in Siler City, N.C., with his wife, Allene; caretaker Akia Leuville; and his daughter and

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THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



Remembering the attack on Pearl Harbor that led the U.S. into WWII

This Dec. 7 marked the 76th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that killed more than 2,400 American servicemen and civilians, wounded more than 1,200 and propelled the United States into World War II that eventually took the lives of 405,000 Americans and some 60 million worldwide before it finally ended in 1945 when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Much has been made about the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. But in reality, it wasn't that much of a surprise. The Japanese had been on the move throughout the Pacific and the Orient since 1904 when they defeated the Russians in Port Arthur, Manchuria. Then they took control of Korea and most of the German colonies in the Pacific.

American writers like Homer Lea and Jack London had written about the Japanese efforts to expand its empire prior to World War I. Gen Billy Mitchell wrote about it in the mid 1920s. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria and followed in July 1937 with the "infamous Marco Polo Bridge Incident, which instigated the Second Sino-Japanese War" and was followed by attacks on Shanghai and Nanking. Finally, there was the Japanese air attack on the American gunboat, USS Panay, which happened to be filmed by cameramen on the Panay and on the riverbank. Both films clearly showed Japanese aircraft attacking the Panay with the American flag flying.

This was all public information.

And when George Patton was the intelligence officer of the Hawaiian Division, he issued a detailed report dated June 3, 1937, in which he concluded, "Japan was willing and possibly able to attack Hawaii." In the last sentence, he wrote, "It is the duty of military forces to prepare against the worst possible eventualities." Gen Patton had often said, "To be a successful soldier, you must know history."

Either the leaders of this country didn't know history or didn't pay attention to it.

As late as November 1941, admirals in Washington wrote a vague message warning the commanders in Hawaii of the possible danger of an attack, but never checked to see if any precautions were being taken. Pulitzer Prize-winner Steve Twomey wrote about this in his book, "Countdown to Pearl Harbor," which I read last year prior to attending the 75th anniversary.

The commander of the Pacific Fleet's intelligence unit had lost track of Japan's biggest aircraft carriers. Twomey writes of false assumptions and racist ones, misunderstandings, infighting and ego clashes between intelligence officers and the Navy and Army commanders—all of which led to our being totally unprepared for the attack.

So much warning was evident long before the "Day of Infamy."

At 7:02 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 7, two young Army privates, George Elliott Jr. and Joseph Lockard at a mobile radar unit at Opana on the opposite side of Oahu picked up "a blob of unknown, inbound airplanes that erupted on their oscilloscope" and they reported it to authorities. Only the switchboard operator and one other man were at Fort Shafter's information center as Elliott informed the operator that a "large" flight of planes, which turned out to be 360 Japanese war planes, were inbound. A few minutes later, Lt Kermit Tyler, a fighter pilot who had been given the morning shift for the second time in his life to be a "pursuit officer," called the mobile radar unit at Opana. With no fighter planes standing by, he knew nothing about how things worked or what to do. When Lockard told him about the incoming aircraft, he said he thought about it for a moment and said, "Well, don't worry about it."

"I had a friend who was a bomber pilot," he said later, "and he told me any time that they play this Hawaiian music all night long, it is a very good indication that our B-17s were coming over from the mainland because they use it for homing."

He had heard such music on his radio as he drove to the center in the early-morning hours. And a flight of B-17s had, in fact, been flying all the way from California and arrived in the midst of World War II.

At 7:55 a.m., Dick Lewis, a Marine sergeant from my hometown, was relieving the guard on Ford Island. He was standing at the end of the runway with three other Marines, all of whom had just returned from a few months in the Central Pacific building airstrips

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Reunion planning efforts appreciated

I would like to take a moment to say what a great job Kathy (Painton) and her crew of helpers did on the reunion. It can't be easy to be so far from almost everyone who might lend a hand so I'm sure it was doubly hard on Kathy but she pulled it off wonderfully.

Thank you for all you do to keep the Marines informed, and I'm looking forward to next year's reunion.

— Dorothy Jillson,
Widow of Milton Jillson, C-1-26
Sanger, Calif.

Another Rosenthal photo found

Thank you so much for including Joe Rosenthal's 1994 letter in the Spring/Summer issue of *Spearhead News*. Just last week, I found another photo of Joe from 1990 and inserted it in the wikipage of "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima."

— Nancy Wong
San Francisco, Calif.

Remembering Paul Merriman

I am writing to inform you that my father, Paul Mark Merriman, F-2-28, Iwo Jima vet, Purple Heart recipient, passed away from cancer on June 3, 2017. He was a subscriber to *Spearhead News*, and attendee at Marine Corps reunions for several decades, including being a speaker in the last several years.

FYI, after viewing "Saving Private Ryan" and hearing the talk at the end about the loss of WWII vets at a rate of 1,000 a day, I asked my father to speak to my daughter's 8th grade class about Iwo Jima since they would be taking a trip soon to Washington, D.C., and would see the infamous flag raising monument there. He gladly agreed.

And so began a retirement career for him going around to schools and speaking to them about his war experiences.

He took along a knife, Japanese language book, Gold Star Family banner, ration book, and much more. The students would be mesmerized. He spoke about seeing the flag go up on Mount Suribachi and how it was the happiest day of his young life. From that grew invitations to speak to civic organizations like Rotary clubs, churches, and military groups. Not only did this give him meaning and purpose in his later years, but

he reminded young people today of the horrors and sacrifice of war.

For his children who often accompanied him to his talks to carry his many props, we heard things we had never heard before. He made many new friends all over Houston and across many communities as a result of his speaking.

I would encourage any WWII vets with the energy and abilities to offer themselves to speak to groups while they still can. My dad told stories of dying buddies that would make you cry, then conclude saying war is awful. He (and I) liked to believe he was spreading a call for peace and greater cooperation among people and nations.

— Carol Merriman Lester
Houston, Texas

Helpful links about WWII keep students engaged with history

I just wanted to shoot you a quick thank you email for making your WWII reference page (on the Fifth Marine Division website). As a retired social studies teacher, I'm staying busy by volunteering in the youth department of my library; I tutor kids after school. We're covering World War II history at the moment, and your page has been a big help. We've referenced it quite a bit!

I just love this era! The kids can still relate to it as well, as they usually have a grandparent or great grandparent in their family who was involved in the war. I encouraged the kids to do some research on their own; one of the girls, Sarah, found this guide: [Important People of World War II at www.truepeoplesearch.com/resources/important-people-of-world-war-ii](http://www.truepeoplesearch.com/resources/important-people-of-world-war-ii)

Everyone loved it—including me. I even learned a couple of things. I was wondering if you could include a link to it somewhere on your page for me? If there is anything that I've learned in my years of working with the youth, it's that encouragement is such a powerful thing. I'd love to show Sarah she's helping others out there. Maybe she'll even get some extra credit from her teacher?

— Bill Jackson
william.jackson@socialstudieshelp.com

FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")



BROWN, Lawayne D. **27TH MAR REG** 6/29/2017
 CATTELONA, George **L-4-13** 7/23/2017
 COLLINS, Frederick E. **31ST REP BTN** 7/9/2017
 DORRINGTON, Donald S. **5TH MT** 6/22/2016
 FERRIN, Lloyd T. **5TH RECON** 10/29/2017
 GOODMAN, Marvin R. **G-3-26** 2/14/2017
 HANSEN, Raymond G. **E-2-27** 10/6/2017
 HILTON, Bill G. **A-1-26** 1/19/2015
 HROMSCO, John J. **26TH MAR REG** 9/26/2017
 JOHNSON, Daniel L. **HS-28** 9/4/2017
 KAUFMAN, Jerome J. **HS-2-13** 4/21/2016

KUJAWA, Chester **C-1-26** 12/12/2016
 MAYS, Raymond N. **HQ-2-27** Unknown
 MENTZER, John F. **5TH ENGR** 6/11/2015
 MERRIMAN, Paul **F-2-28** 6/3/2017
 MOTSINGER, Leonard F. **B-1-28** 9/14/2012
 SMITH, Donald H. **HQ-HQ** 2/8/2015
 SONNE, Alma B. **A-1-28** 12/15/2008
 STANKUS, Joseph G. **HQ-2-28** 2/4/2004
 STAUFFER, Frederick W. **5TH TANK** 2/13/2016
 TOZER, Clifton **28TH MAR REG** 11/3/2017
 WALKER, Olaf K. **AMPH TRAC** 10/14/2017

Send Final Muster notices (including name, unit and date of death) by email to talespress@talespress.com, by USPS to Association Secretary Ray Elliott, 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802, or by calling 217-840-2121.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

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with the forward echelon of the Marine Air Wing.

"I looked over my shoulder and saw these planes flying right at us," Lewis told me in an interview that was later published in Leatherneck magazine. "I thought they were Army planes at first and wondered why they were flying maneuvers on Sunday morning. Then I noticed them meatballs on the wings and wondered why they covered up the stars on the bottom of the wings. That's how dumb I was.

"Then I saw something coming out of the planes and didn't know what it was that was hitting the airstrip and making fire jump off the runway. They were still quite a ways away from us, and pretty soon something went 'Yiinnnggg,' and I went end-over-end. I got a ricocheted bullet in my right shoulder. And I knew it was for real then."

For a short time, Lewis thought he'd lost his whole shoulder. Bleeding badly, he yanked off his dungaree jacket to get down to his undershirt and tore it off, then took his fingers and pushed the shirt into the hole to stop the bleeding. But his arm was hanging straight down and wouldn't move.

By that time, the smoke was beginning to billow up over the harbor. Lewis was about three miles from Battleship Row, and smoke was billowing up over the hangers, too, and planes were burning right in from of them.

"Dadgoneit," Lewis told me in the interview, "we knew just as well as you and I are sitting here that it did happen and we knew it was going to happen."



Where's Roscoe?

If anyone knows where Roscoe, the African lion mascot of the 28th Regiment, is buried at old Camp Tarawa, please contact Kathy Painton at 808-880-9880 or kathypainton@hotmail.com. We would like this important information for the tour and docent talks at Camp Tarawa. All that is known is that he is buried somewhere on the 401 acres of the campsite in Waimea (Kamuela), on the Big Island of Hawai'i. There is a map of the camp that was done after the Division returned from Iwo Jima. A copy of this map could be sent to anyone who can pinpoint the gravesite.

2018 REUNION

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said, “You look like a striped-assed ape.” It was a few years later that I got my second boot camp haircut at MCRD in San Diego just after high school graduation.

Bruce came to work for my father right after he was discharged. My father had received his own draft notice during the war and was given 30 days to take care of his trucking business, which consisted of five trucks for hauling livestock, grain, fertilizer and other items for local farmers and employees of kids not yet in the military and men too old to serve. A local farmer on the draft board got up a petition to keep my father at home serving the farm community. So he never served in the military, but many of those who worked for him were veterans. One of them, Bill Bline, went to serve with the 76th Army Infantry Division and was killed near Hamburg, Germany.

While I saw Ben infrequently in those early days, I was able to ride with Bruce (and my dad) as he drove around the country, including to the Indianapolis stockyards with loads of cattle and hogs. We met many other veterans, and I was all eyes and ears. I based characters on my dad, Ben, Bruce and Bill and other veterans in my first novel, “Wild Hands Toward the Sky.” Ben died of a heart attack when he was only 60, and Bruce chose June 6 years later to take his own life after his war injuries debilitated him, leaving him in constant pain.

As a Marine, I served in a weapons section with C-1-7 in the First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, as a brig guard at Sangley Point Naval Station in the Philippines and with the artillery with I-3-10 in the Second Marine Division at Camp Lejuene.

When my enlistment was over, I worked road construction and in the oil fields before finally going to college, majoring in English and psychology. After working in a maximum security prison for a year, I went back to college and got a master’s degree in English education and taught for 25 years at the high school and college level, wrote a daily newspaper column part of the time and picked up a master’s degree in journalism and wrote novels.

To remember Bruce and others, I had visited Omaha Beach while I took my students to Europe on tours. And I covered the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1994. But it wasn’t until 2005 that I learned about the Military Historical Tours trip to Iwo Jima. I wanted to go there to see where Ben and the Marines had fought that iconic battle.

I met the national commander of the Marine Corps

League then, came home and initiated one here, the Richard L. Pittman MCL #1230 (named after a local Marine who was killed on Iwo Jima on 21 February 1945), joined the FMDA and the Iwo Jima Association of America and started attending the reunions across the country.

Former *Spearhead* editor Bert Clayton asked me to take over the editorship in 2008, and I’ve been doing that ever since—past issues of *Spearhead* since then are archived at www.talespress.com. Some time later, Col Warren Wiedhahn asked me to edit The Black Sands publication of the IJAA, and I did both for a while and traveled to Guam, Iwo Jima, Saipan, Tinian, Vietnam, Korea and the Philippines. To say that it’s been an honor to travel to those islands, meet and work with the men who fought there and edit the publications is hardly adequate in explaining my feeling. It’s been some of the greatest highlights of my life.

And now to be able to host the 69th FMDA reunion Oct. 16-21, 2018, here in Champaign-Urbana, Ill., where I’ve spent a large period of my life, is a privilege I never expected. Working along with me, as she has in all these past endeavors and without whom none of it would have happened with the same quality, is my wife of nearly 30 years, Vanessa Faurie, with whom I have two daughters—I have four other children (a now-deceased son and three daughters). Vanessa’s grandfather was a Marine in World War I.

As past editor of the University of Illinois’ alumni magazine and current Director of Advancement for Research Initiatives, she helps make *Spearhead* a publication to be proud of and is by my side in planning the reunion here next year—one we hope will match up to those I’ve attended during the last 10 years.

The reunion will be held at the Hyatt Place hotel in downtown Champaign, which is the hotel of choice for guests of the annual Roger Ebert Film Festival (www.ebertfest.com) and near the restored, historic Virginia Theatre (thevirginia.org) where the festival is held every April and one of our reunion events will be held, as well. The Hyatt Place is within walking distance from a variety of outstanding restaurants, and is not far from the University of Illinois campus. The hotel offers free shuttle service to and from the nearby train station and airport (CMI) served by American and United airlines. The hotel will also offer three days on either side of the reunion dates at the same rate, including parking and breakfast daily.

Besides showing Arnold Shapiro’s documentary film of “Return to Iwo Jima” at the Virginia, we are planning visits to the Chez Center for Wounded Veterans

in Higher Education at the University of Illinois (woundedvetcenter.ahs.illinois.edu), which is the only one of its kind in the U.S. and also serves non-students; the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (www.illinois.gov/alplm/Pages/default.aspx), home and tomb in Springfield; the Ernie Pyle WWII Museum (www.erniepyle.org) in Dana, Ind.; the Vermillion County War Museum (www.vcwm.org) in Danville, which has a section for Maj Kenneth D. Bailey, local Marine with Company C, First Raider Battalion who was killed on Guadalcanal on 26 September 1942 and posthumously received the Medal of Honor. He had previously received a Silver Star for his actions in the Makin Island.

For those staying longer, you may want to visit two additional area Lincoln sites: Lincoln's Historic New Salem State Park (www.lincolnsnewsalem.com) west of Springfield and Lincoln Log Cabin Park (www.lincolnlogcabin.org) south of Charleston. Of course, Chicago is a two-and-a-half-hour drive north or an easy train or plane ride away.

Registration information will be published in the Spring/Summer 2018 issue of *Spearhead News*. My family and I, and the rest of our community, look forward to welcoming you next fall.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBERS

BOWDEN, Vanessa and Troy – Louisville, KY
COLLINS, JAMES M. **A-1-26** Hudson, MA
FRANZ, Nancy – Scottsdale, AZ
GREGURAS, Fred – Los Altos, CA
HAMMEL, Eric – Pacifica, CA
HEAD, Jim **5thSerBn-26** Phoenix, AZ
MERRIFIELD, Virginia – Howardtown, KY

ANNUAL MEMBERS

SMITH, Scott P. – North Syracuse, NY

MEMORIAL MEMBERS

HANSEN, Eleanor – West Suffield, CT

SECRETARY'S NOTES

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son-in-law, Valerie and Jimmy Dorsett. They stayed a few days on Oahu prior to the reunion and an extra day on the Big Island to do more touring after the reunion.

Other Iwo Jima veterans who attended:

Ben Bellefeuille (H-3-26)
Carl DeHaven (5thMT)
Del Treichler (L-4-13)
Don Graves (D-2-28)
Duane Tunnyhill (I-3-28)
Francis Jackson (5thJASCO)
Ivan Hammond (5thJASCO)
Monroe Ozment (HQ-2-28)
Louie Lepore (A-1-27)
Preston Welch (C-1-28)
Ralph Simoneau (D-2-27)
Walter Hirschinger (C-1-26)
Alvin Orsland (H-3-26)
George Boutwell (5thMed)

Other notes for your information:

- Please note that annual membership renewals are always due by the end of the year. Your tax-deductible contributions are much appreciated and help keep the Association operating or add to the museum fund. Those who have not kept their membership current for some time will be dropped from the rolls prior to the Spring/Summer 2018 issue, which will include registration information for the 69th reunion in Champaign-Urbana, Ill. Please be sure to alert me to changes of address and Final Muster notices.

- If you plan to attend the reunion, it would be helpful if you'd just drop me an email at talespress@talespress.com and let me know if you're planning on coming, so we can adjust the rooms needed with an educated guess.

- We're still looking for past copies of the *Spearhead News*. At this point, we have issues back into the 1960s but are still hoping to get copies all the way back to the first ones in 1949 when the Association was formed. Send those copies to me at 2609 N. High Cross Road, Urbana, IL 61802.

- Items for the museum should be sent to Kathy Painton at 62-3928 Loli'I Pl. H1, Kamuela, HI 96743.

Hope to see you in October 2018.

— Ray Elliott, Secretary



Members of the 68th Reunion group visit the Camp Tarawa monument at the entrance to Parker Ranch on the Big Island of Hawai'i, from left: Jimmie Watson, Ben Bellefeuille, Del Treichler, Duane Tunnyhill, Ivan Hammond, Ralph SImoneau, Carl De-Haven, Bonnie Arnold-Haynes, Francis Jackson, Monroe Ozment, Preston Welch, Louie Lepore, George Boutwell, Don Graves and John Coltrane. *(Photo by Leonardo Flores)*

A reunion for the ages

One of our Association members suggested the 68th reunion on the Big Island would be a “last hurrah”—meaning it would be truly special and spectacular. Indeed it was—even though it’s not the last.

Headquartered at the Marriott Courtyard King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Hotel, the return to the Fifth Marine Division’s overseas home by 15 Iwo Jima survivors and some 70 family members of the FMDA and others was superbly managed by our most energetic and enthusiastic host, Kathy Painton. The reunion exceeded all expectations, and though it was a long hard trip from the U.S. mainland, especially for our aged Iwo Jima survivors, it was worth every hardship and expense of travel.

From the well-stocked hospitality room where we enjoyed donated nightly meals (courtesy of Kathy Painton’s friends, Keala and Harley Rhodes) to every scheduled event—including bus tours, the closing banquet, and an island luau—every activity and event was outstanding. Also helping Kathy throughout the reunion were FMDA members Karen Campbell and Rita Christiansen.

Keala worked tirelessly with Kathy, especially on the bus tours, insuring we all got on the right bus and were on time to our scheduled visits and tour events. Still others helping before and during the event were Bonnie Haynes and Jimmie Watson, who handled the attendee registrations.

In addition to managing the many activities of the reunion, Kathy also personally provided a shuttle service from the Kona airport, as this service was not provided by the hotel. It was another knockout effort and fortunately Kathy had driving help from my brother, Morey, on arrival day and Ray Elliott on departure day. Brother Morey also stepped up to coordinate the colors presentation with the ROTC colors unit at the banquet.

I might also add that Kathy’s choice of the tour bus company for the three long trips we took was outstanding. The drivers selected for the tours were special. We were all treated to the history of Hawaii from discovery until today, as well as the fauna and geology of the island. I don’t think a college course on the Big Island could have provided the information we received from these knowledgeable and personable drivers.

There were many highlights of our event-filled, week-long 68th reunion, but most memorable was the trip to Kamuela (Waimea) where we were greeted by hundreds of flag-waving children from the Parker School and then treated to lunch by the townspeople at a community hall. This replicated the welcome that the shot-up and depleted remnants of the division received on their return from Iwo Jima in April 1945.

Also most memorable on the long trip to Hilo was our visit to the Pohakuloa live fire range where we encountered young Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines undergoing live fire training. Our old Iwo survivors bonded with these young Marines, despite the differences in age, weapons and personal combat gear used today. It was truly a highlight event and most special for both the young Marines of 2/3 and our aged vets.

The welcome at Parker School and the visit with the young Marines of 2/3 left me with two indelible impressions: The people of Kamuela, through the generations, have never forgotten the men of the Fifth Marine Division and today's young Marines are the same as those of yesteryear.

Our memorial service on Saturday after the business meeting featured ringing of the bells when each name was called and also, as at our previous

reunion, our vet survivors recalled names of friends lost on Iwo, and family members added those who did not come home. Other family and vet members recalled those who have passed and were not on the roll call.

Our featured speaker at Saturday night's banquet was Hawaii State Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, the son of Gil Kahele, who remembered his father and assured us that he would continue his father's commitment to the Fifth Marine Division museum project. He was followed by the Commandant's representative, BrigGen Brian W. Cavanaugh, Deputy Co U.S. Marine Forces Pacific. A local band, dressed like the Blues Brothers, provided lively dinner entertainment.

Sunday was a rest and church day, followed by a long volcano tour bus ride on Monday and the closing island luau featuring Hawaiian music, dancing, storytelling and a fire dancer. The luau was a most appropriate closing event to seal the memory of this reunion.

Kathy Painton's "Reunion for the Ages" rates a most hearty well done from all of us who attended.

Also deserving of a hearty well done was the superb 68th Reunion Journal edited by Kath Butler, which can be described as a bookend to the original *Spearhead*.

— John Butler, President



Above: George Boutwell and FMDA President John Butler
(Photo by Eric Rhodes)

At right: FMDA Treasurer Doug Meny visits with Del Treichler in the Hospitality Room.

(Photo by Myrna Perry)



Visit the new FMDA website:
5thmardiv-assoc.org



FMDA Vice President Kathy Painton, Ivan Hammond, Kevin Painton and Keilani Painton
(Photo by Leonardo Flores)



Keala Rhodes
(Photo by Ray Elliott)



Preston Welch and son Daniel
(Photo by Leonardo Flores)



Allene and John Coltrane
(Photo by Rita Christiansen)



Pat Watson, Lynn Payton, Ivan Hammond and Claudia Brown
(Photo by Eric Rhodes)



Del Treichler, with granddaughters Lindsey Clover and Ashley Lubs
(Photo by Eric Rhodes)



Morey Butler talking with Louie Lepore
(Photo by Eric Rhodes)



Carl DeHaven and daughter, Kim
(Photo by Leonardo Flores)



Jimmie Hyde Watson and Ben Bellefeuille
(Photo by Leonardo Flores)



Paul Swartz, Carl Hanson and Jerry Hanson
(Photo by Leonardo Flores)



Hawai'ian luau
(Photo by Leonardo Flores)

Banquet Remarks from Hawai'i State Senator **Kaiali'i Kahele**

Aloha!

It is indeed an honor for me to be here tonight. It has now been almost two years since my father, the late Sen. Gilbert Kahele, passed away, and there is not a day that goes by that I do not think about him. I would not be here tonight if it were not for him and the bond and friendships he forged in the last few years of his life with the Fifth Marine Division. When asked if I would say a few words on behalf of my father this evening, I tried to put myself in his shoes, what would he say to all of you.

He probably would tell you a little about himself. Share something that he was passionate about. Express his desire and commitment to establish a museum at Camp Tarawa and finally leave you with a quote. So if you will indulge me for a few minutes, I will do just that.

My dad, the late Sen. Gilbert Kahele, was born in 1942 in a grass shack by the sea, not too far from here in the last fishing village in Hawai'i, Miloli'i. The world was at war and the Pacific, its oceans and islands had become battlegrounds. His mother named him Gilbert because of the Gilbert Islands in the South Pacific where a famous battle was fought between the American and Japanese militaries.

Realizing that their five young children needed a quality education, his parents moved the family to Hilo in the late 1940s. Young Gilbert was just 6 years old when they moved to Hilo. He grew up in public housing, went to public school, excelled in sports and graduated from Hilo High School in 1960, one month after a devastating tidal wave struck Hilo on April Fool's Day.

After graduation, my dad enlisted in the Marine Corps and left Hilo for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. He would often tell me about that trip that he took in the fall of 1960, at 18 years old, a trip that would forever change his life. He flew to St. Louis to spend a few days visiting his older brother and then boarded a Greyhound bus, which took him through the southern states of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. Every time he would stop at towns, or Greyhound bus centers, there was something different that he never saw in Hawaii,



Hawai'i State Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele

(Photo by Eric Rhodes)

never experienced before. Signs that said: "Whites only, colored not allowed." Bathrooms and restaurants that separated people by the color of their skin. He knew immediately he was in a different place, that the colored man was different than the white man. This was the heartland of the South, the center of racial segregation, discrimination, ground zero for the Civil Rights Movement of the early 1960s, and although this young brown Hawaiian man was personally never discriminated against, he never, ever forgot the look on their faces—the oppressed, the ridiculed, the segregated—and as a young 18 years old, it began to lay the foundation of equality, of empathy and compassion, and the unshakable belief that we are all created equal, that we are born into this world with certain unalienable rights and no matter your gender, your race or the color of your skin, that everyone should be treated fairly, with dignity, respect and afforded the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

Six years later, my dad left the Marine Corps as a lance corporal, got his education and would then begin a 30-plus-year career as a civil servant in the Army, the majority of that time being spent at Pohakuloa Training Area as the garrison's director of public works.

Gil loved military history, especially WWII history, both Europe and the Pacific. It was a passion of his, and throughout his life he often traveled to famous battlegrounds, museums and memorials to pay his respects and to learn about the Americans who fought and gave their life at these hallowed grounds. In the last

year of his life, he went to Normandy, Korea, Arlington and what would be the trip of a lifetime, when he went to Iwo Jima with many of you. That walk to the top of Mt. Suribachi was one I am sure he had dreamed about many times, and I want to personally thank Kathy Painton and the Fifth Marine Division for making that dream a reality for him.

In 2011 at 69 years old, Gil was appointed to the Hawai'i State Senate by the governor of Hawaii. He would serve in the senate for five years, and while he was there he made an immeasurable impact in our community. One of the things that I know he was committed to was the establishment of a museum at Camp Tarawa in Waimea. He firmly believed that the establishment of a museum that would tell the story and perpetuate the memory of so many young Americans who trained and made final preparations for battle before they sailed for Iwo Jima in February 1945. Working together with Rep. Cindy Evans and the Parker Ranch community, they were in negotiations for the land and funding when he passed away. One of the reasons I decided to take my dad's place in the senate was because of some of the unfinished work he left behind, and the museum at Camp Tarawa is something I am confident we can and will get done.

In closing, I will leave you with a quote—one of my dad's favorite quotes—taken from a speech given by one of our country's greatest military heroes, and one of, if not my dad's most admired, Gen Douglas MacArthur. On May 12, 1962, Gen McArthur addressed the cadets of West Point:

The shadows are lengthening for me. The twilight is here. My days of old have vanished—tone and tints. They have gone glimmering through the dreams of things that were. Their memory is one of wondrous beauty, watered by tears and coaxed and caressed by the smiles of yesterday. I listen then, but with thirsty ear, for the witching melody of faint bugles blowing reveille, of far drums beating the long roll.

In my dreams I hear again the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield. But in the evening of my memory I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes: Duty, Honor, Country.

Today marks my final roll call with you. But I want you to know that when I cross the river, my last conscious thoughts will be of the Corps, and the Corps, and the Corps.

I bid you farewell.
Mahalo and Semper Fi.



Hawai'i State Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele, left, along with State Rep. Cindy Evans, at right, present Iwo Jima veteran Carl DeHaven (5th MT) of League City, Texas, with a certificate from the Hawaii State Legislature. Each Iwo Jima veteran in attendance was honored as such. Evans also spoke at the banquet, affirming her support for the FMDA and the museum project.

(Photo by Kim DeHaven)



State Rep. Cindy Evans and State Sen. Kaiali'i Kahele pose with FMDA Vice President and 2017 Reunion organizer Kathy Painton, who has been representing the FMDA's interests in Hawai'i and coordinating efforts for the museum on what is currently Parker Ranch property near the Campa Tarawa monument.

(Photo by Rita Christensen)

**Banquet Remarks
from BGen**

Brian Cavanaugh

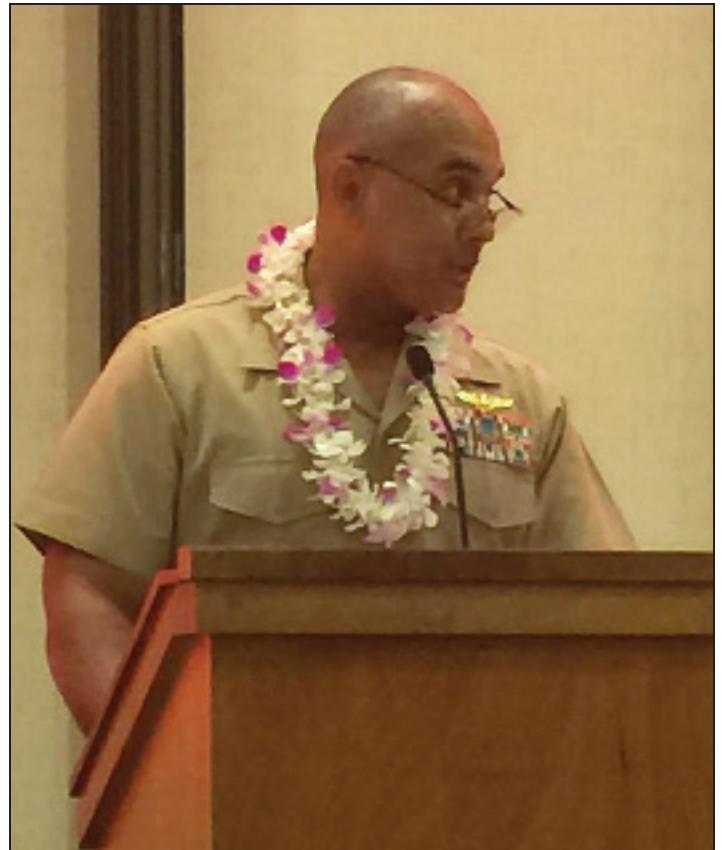
I heard there were some Marines out there tonight? Can I get an OO-RAH?

Ladies and gentlemen, I am BGen Brian Cavanaugh, Deputy Commander, Marine Forces Pacific (or FMFPAC, as you may remember). I have the privilege tonight of representing both the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Neller, and the Commander of MARFORPAC, LtGen Berger. I am sure both gentlemen would rather be here in the great company of you storied heroes here tonight. Sen. Kahele and Rep Evans, thank you for joining us this evening. As you know, the Marines and sailors in this room are a part of a great combat unit. The Fifth Marine Division has a proud history of service in both World War II and in the Vietnam War. Fighting on behalf of your nation, your hard work, determination, esprit de corps and sacrifice made the world a better place. Your blood, sweat and tears brought peace and freedom to the people of the world. As a result, you brought economic security and a better way of life to generations of Americans and the entire Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

I also want to thank Mrs. Kathy Painton and her team for setting all this up.

Just a short drive from the hotel here is a memorial for Camp Tarawa. Camp Tarawa was a harsh and dusty training camp located between two volcanoes: Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. It was the perfect location for the Fifth Marine Division to prepare for combat, and you certainly did go to combat at one of our Corps' most famous battles: Iwo Jima. It was on Iwo Jima that elements of the division earned the Navy Unit Commendation and Presidential Unit Citation for their actions. It was members of the Fifth Marine Division that raised the flags over Mt. Suribachi, prompting James Forrestal, then Secretary of the Navy, to say to LtGen Holland "Howlin' Mad" Smith, "Holland, the raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years."

The traditions of the warriors from the Fifth Marine division continues, and you can be equally proud of your fellow Marines who are wearing the uniform today. They are carrying on the proud legacy established by those Marines in this room, and of the



BGen Brian Cavanaugh

(Photo by Myrna Perry)

other Fifth Marine Division Marines and sailors who are not with us tonight. Today's Marines are hard at work, training and operating, at home and in faraway lands, remaining ready to fight our country's battles in the air, on land and sea.

While the uniforms and equipment used by today's Marines has changed from what you may remember, they still wear the same Eagle, Globe and Anchor over their heart on woodland and desert camouflage uniform.

While the standard infantry weapon today is the M-4 rifle, the Marine who looks through its sights still has the same discipline, determination and esprit de corps that you had.

While our aviators today fly the stealthy fifth generation F-35B Joint Strike Fighter and the MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, they remain just as committed to supporting their fellow Marines on the ground as did their predecessors who flew in the skies above Iwo Jima and Vietnam.

Today, more than ever before, there is a demand for U.S. Marines throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific. We are the partner of choice for nations in the region. Our air-ground-logistics task forces and the ability to operate from the sea is respected and the model for nearly every nation in the Pacific. This past year, Marines and sailors

from within MARFORPAC conducted more than 100 training evolutions in the Indo-Asia-Pacific alone. These evolutions ranged from major, complex exercises such as Cobra Gold in Thailand, Ulchi Focus Guardian in South Korea, and Talisman Saber in Australia, to small engineering and medical exercises in Cambodia and Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka, by the way, is the newest member of the global Marine Corps community, having stood up their first Marine Corps unit this past February.

U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific currently has over 86,000 Marines and sailors deployed throughout the Pacific. They are dedicated to the mission, just like the Marines of the Fifth Marine Division had done previously. Their efforts are all part of a larger regional awareness of a shared common future, based on shared common values of freedom, justice and peace. The only reason we are able to live in peace and share these values is because of the efforts of the men and women who went before us, especially those of you in this room.

And as we come together tonight for this reunion to remember the Marines and sailors of the Division, let us reflect for a moment and remember that the Fifth Marine Division sustained 2,482 killed in action, 19 missing in action, and 6,218 wounded in action at Iwo Jima; the highest casualty rate of all the three Marine Corps divisions involved. Thankfully, some of the brave Marines that fought in those battles are here with us tonight. Marines like Cpl Walter Hirschinger, wounded there on 7 March 1945.

Let's give him and his fellow WWII warriors a round of applause.

The Fifth Marine Division also performed in battle throughout the Vietnam War. Battles like Khe Sahn, Hue City and the Tet Offensive, where Marines and sailors would earn the Presidential Unit Citation and two more Medals of Honor. Col Bill Rockey is here with us tonight—a legend himself and recipient of two Silver Stars. However, it was his father Gen Keller Rockey, the founder of this Association and leader of the Fifth Marine Division during their fight on Iwo Jima where 15 Marines and two Navy corpsmen would receive the Medal of Honor for their actions.

Please join me in giving Col Rockey and our other Vietnam warriors a round of applause.

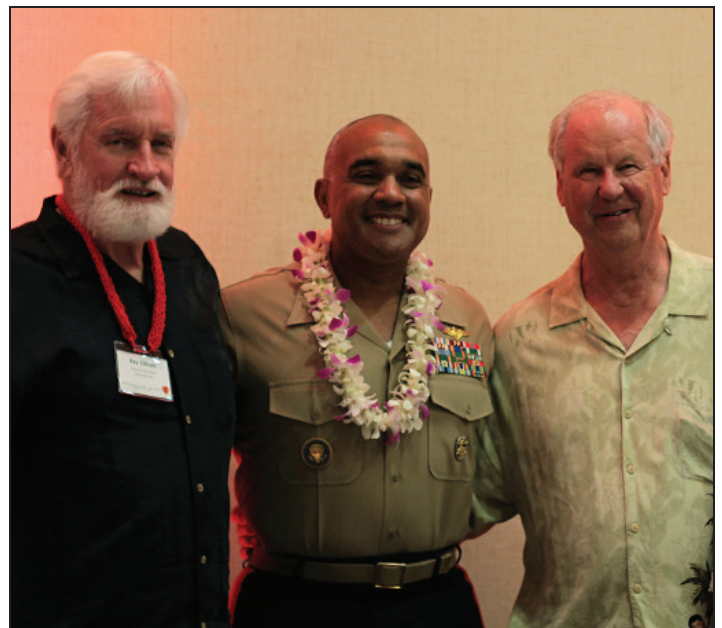
As former President Ronald Reagan said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the Marines don't have that problem."

The Fifth Marine Division doesn't have that problem. You made the world a better place. It was your determination, your sacrifices and your blood that gave us, and the generations to come, a better future. I am in awe of your actions, and on behalf of not only the American people, but also our allies and partners in the Pacific, thank you, may God bless you all, and Semper Fidelis!



USMC BGen Brian Cavanaugh, left, is pictured with FMDA Trustee, Col Bill Rockey, center, and FMDA President John Butler, right.

(Photo by Myrna Perry)



FMDA Secretary and Spearhead Editor Ray Elliott, left, is pictured with USMC BGen Brian Cavanaugh, center; and Harley Rhodes, right.

(Photo by Eric Rhodes)

The home of the brave

15 Camp Tarawa vets reunite in Waimea

By Jan Wizinowich

Oct. 23, 2017 – Special to West Hawaii Today

WAIMEA — Last Thursday, with trade winds howling, crowds of flag-waving Parker School students lined the walkway as members of the Second and Fifth Marine Divisions made their way to the school auditorium, shaking hands and telling stories along the way.

The men, accompanied by their families, were returning to the place that gave them a haven from the brutal battles taking place in the World War II Pacific Theater to remember a bustling community of open-hearted generosity.

“I love this community. People are so friendly here,” Fifth Marines Division member Donald Graves said.

In December 1943, after its victory on Tarawa Atoll, the Second Marine Division arrived in Hilo, making its way to Waimea on trucks across the saddle or on the sugar cane train up the Hamakua Coast. Camp Tarawa, a tent city, was soon erected despite the winds that coated their food with black grit and sand.

“You didn’t need salt and pepper,” said Carl DeHaven.

Veterans, family, Waimea community members and Parker and Waimea Country School students gathered in the auditorium Thursday, where Kathy Painton, the reunion organizer, shared some World War II history in a slide show.

“My father was killed on Iwo Jima when I was 21 months, so all of you are my fathers,” she said.

Fallen Marines such as Silver Star recipient Harrydale Hyde from New Orleans were represented by family members. Sister Jimmie Hyde Watson remembers receiving the telegram.

“I was just 12 years old, sitting on the front porch when the telegram came,” she said.

The mic was then passed and stories unfolded. Born in Detroit, Graves told of making hot chocolate in a foxhole with the Japanese just yards away. He also remembered the amazing entertainment, such as the Ray Anthony and Bob Crosby Orchestras that came to play for the Marines.

One of the many things the Marines did for fun was to visit the “slop chute,” their name for the beer hall, where as well as refreshment they could find local entertainment.

“There was a dog that carried a tin can around in



Students from Parker School wave flags and hold up signs of support and welcome as the Fifth Marine Division Association Reunion group arrives on its way to the school auditorium for a program.

(Photo by Leonardo Flores)

her teeth and she would go around and beg for beer,” said Francis Jackson, also from the Fifth Marine Division.

The gathering ended with Philadelphia native Carl DeHaven playing a rousing rendition of “The Marines’ Hymn” on his harmonica before lunch and more stories at Kahilu Town Hall.

All in their 90s, many of the vets signed up when they were 16, even though the legal age of enlistment was 17.

“I remember hearing Roosevelt’s speech on Dec. 8, and I still had six months to go to 17, but my parents signed the paper,” Graves said.

Now 94 and wheelchair bound, John Coltrane was determined to return to Hawaii, even after a fall, rehab and much physical therapy. He and his wife, Allene, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with reunion attendees Thursday.

The geography of Waimea provided authentic training grounds for Pacific Theater battle zones, especially Iwo Jima.

“You see these small mountains? We invaded them. We had some good maneuvers here. We had planes drop over ruck sacks and we’d come and move in,” Graves remembered.

Where they were going was top secret, and when the division was one day out they brought out a clay model mountain and all the training made sense: They were going to Iwo Jima.

Jackson remembers the landing on Iwo Jima.

“I landed in the 13th wave and we were very fortunate. A shell hit in front of us and we jumped in that hole. The staff sergeant said to move and we looked up and there were no Japanese. I turned around and looked at the landing and the 14th wave got blown out of the water, the 15th wave got blown out of the water and the 16th wave got blown out of the water.”

That mission changed the course of Graves’ life.

“I had a flame thrower on my back and I put my face in the sand and said, ‘Lord, if you get me out of this, I’ll serve you the rest of my life,’ and I’ve been in the ministry for 30 years. That’s my story.”

For other battle zones, such as Saipan with its extensive sugar production, the cane fields of Hamakua provided an ideal simulation.

However while the geography was ideal, the December Waimea weather proved a bit daunting for men just arriving from Tarawa, located in the tropical south Pacific. George Boutwell, of H&S Company in the Fifth Medical Battalion, remembers that first drive

across what’s now Saddle Road.

“I was driving a jeep and just had a T-shirt on. When we started to climb, it started to get kind of cool. We were in convoy and so I was driving with one hand and reaching back trying to get a jacket out of my pack.”

The reunion gatherings were subdued, yet magical, as attendees gave the Waimea community a glimpse into its past. For a relatively short period of time, Waimea became a major hub for the war effort. People from all over the nation came together to form the Second and Fifth Marine Divisions, who in turn joined together with a small hard-working community to get the job done.

The reunion was a celebration of a legacy that connects generations and communities, giving students a first-hand glimpse at world history and the history of their community.

Or in the words of one Parker School student, “I think it’s cool we get to see this.”

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Parker School students prepared cards for the Iwo Jima veterans to thank them for their service and to welcome them back to Waimea and to the place where they started to train for the battle 74 years ago.

(Photo by Vanessa Faurie)

Iwo Jima vets meet the new guys

By Nancy Cook Lauer

Oct. 21, 2017 – West Hawaii Today

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA — The veterans stepped slowly off the tour bus Friday to the harmonica tune of “The Marines’ Hymn” played by a service member.

But this group of nonagenarians didn’t hail from the shores of Montezuma. No, their most memorable posting was the island of Iwo Jima.

The Marines and survivors stopped at Pohakuloa Training Area as a homecoming of sorts.

“It’s good to be here,” said Preston Welch, 92.

Welch found the end of his Iwo Jima tour sidetracked to San Diego, rather than returning to the Big Island with his brothers in arms. He spent several months in the hospital, recovering from shrapnel to his legs and a bullet wound through his shoulder.

As members of the Fifth Marine Division, the vets trained at the now-defunct Camp Tarawa in Waimea, before continuing on to the pivotal 1945 World War II battle where they captured the island of Iwo Jima from the Imperial Japanese Army.

It was Ivan Hammond’s job to call in air strikes to the craters of Mount Suribachi, where more than 1,600 enemy troops were sheltering. The napalm bombs were not officially acknowledged for years after the war, Hammond said, but he believes they were instrumental in winning the battle.

“A couple days later, we went up to raise the flags,” Hammond said. “A 41-man patrol was sent up, thinking it was a sacrificial deal. ... We watched as the first flag went up.”

Hammond, 92, who now lives in Santa Fe, Texas, said a lot more was said and done that perhaps shouldn’t be shared with the newspaper. He saw the second, much larger, flag go up as well, he said.

At Pohakuloa, the elder Marines were met by 130 eager young infantry from Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines from Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay, who are training at Pohakuloa prior to deployment next summer.

Don Graves, 92, was a flamethrower—one of the most dangerous positions in a bloody battle, the only Marine battle where American casualties exceeded those of Japan. His job was to wear a backpack carrying



Ralph Simoneau (D-2-27) of Germantown, Wis., visits with Marines of Fox Company at the Pohakuloa Training Area.

(Photo by Leonardo Flores)

about 80 pounds of highly combustible napalm mix and aim it into tunnels, foxholes and pillboxes.

Graves, a spry, wise-cracking speaker, soon found himself swallowed in a sea of camouflage as the young Marines stood riveted around him. Graves had plenty of war stories, and more than a little advice, for the young troops following his every word.

The chance to meet the older vets is important for his young charges, said Fox Company Commander Shane Robinette.

“Marines are all about delving into history,” Robinette said. “Being able to tap directly into that history is greatly appreciated.”

The group had originally planned just a short stop and bus tour of the Pohakuloa Training Area, perhaps not even disembarking, on their way from Kailua-Kona to Hilo. But the combination of young and elder Marines weren’t having that.

The trainees wanted to put together a static display of weapons and vehicles that may have changed greatly over the decades.

“They did this all on their own,” said Eric Hamilton, public affairs officer for U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii for Pohakuloa Training Area. “They asked themselves, ‘What would I show these guys about us today?’”

The older Marines and survivors, meanwhile, had stories to tell.

And they had questions. Lots of questions, as Sgt Tyler Zeller discovered, describing his full-automatic rifle to a small, but rapt, group of vets and survivors.

“Is that a real gun?” asked Jimmie Hyde Watson, pointing to the plastic body of the weapon. Her brother, Pfc Harrydale Hyde, was killed in action at Iwo Jima.

The weight is a huge difference, they discovered. The F4 weighs just 2.5 pounds, compared to the 9.5-pound M1 Garand carried in World War II.

There was still much to talk about Friday morning, but the group was expected in Hilo. Some vets in wheelchairs and some with canes, they reluctantly made their way back to the bus.

“Semper fi,” called one of the departing Marines. “And if that’s not good enough, oo-rah!”

The 68th annual reunion was organized by the Fifth Marine Division Association, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving the history and tradition of the Fifth Marine Division and honor its legacy. Vice President Kathy Painton’s father was stationed at Camp Tarawa. He died during World War II while fighting in the Pacific.

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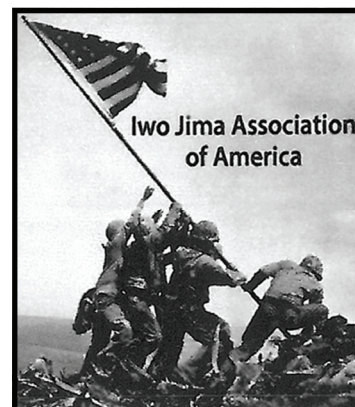
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SSgt's Iwo Jima memories recalled

Editor's Note: These memories were recorded in 1995 by his oldest son, Steve, but listened to much later when it was too late to obtain any clarifications or corrections.

By Steve Trainor

Cpl, USMC, 1969-75

SSgt Leon "Lee" Trainor Jr. (HQ-26) was 18 when he was on his way to lunch in his hometown of Kansas City, Mo., days after Pearl Harbor when he ran into several of his Westport High School football buddies. They were on their way to take their physicals and join the Marine Corps. Dad questioned their sanity ("You gotta be nuts. Do you have a death wish?"), but then decided to join them. In the end, out of the seven of them, Dad was the only one to pass his physical. They told him how lucky he was. He then wondered if he should go and see what he's made of.

But then he had to pass his mother's muster. Ruth Barr Trainor was a native of Uxbridge, England, and a WWI bride; she knew war and didn't like it. It took Dad several days to convince her for him to join the Corps.

Initially, after California boot camp, he ended up at the MCRD base property office where he typed "rifle cards" all day long. When everyone in that office was transferred to Pendleton, Dad ended up being responsible for all the property records, including five general's homes ("furniture, metal tie-downs, etc."). He spent nights and weekends learning the books before he could train the others whom they brought in to assist him.

He was pretty organized when it came to paperwork and received a couple of promotions, impressing the colonel who ran the office. Dad's immediate superior was a "China Marine" named "Wilson" (not his real name) who'd arrived after Dad. The colonel kept saying, "Send Trainor in" and Wilson wasn't happy, Dad recalled. But when the colonel was transferred to Pearl and a reserve captain was to take his place, Dad knew Wilson would put him under the gun. He let it be known around the base he was interested in a transfer. He accepted a job in charge of recruit supplies in the base clothing office. One job was instructing recruits on clothing procedures. He recalled that Tyrone Power came through his class. It was easy but boring duty, so he again put the word out he'd take "whatever came down the pike in my category."



SSgt Leon "Lee" Trainor Jr. (HQ-26)

He ended up at the ammunition depot on Mare Island (Naval Shipyard), just north of San Francisco Bay. He spent part of his off time playing (very well) on the base basketball team. He was asked to install a dispersing and transportation program. But not wanting to sit out the war, he was soon pushing for combat duty, sending a letter to the first sergeant and captain. He believed there weren't a whole lot of stateside guys requesting combat in late '44. The brass had been so impressed with him that they recommended him for the transfer. Ten days later he was on his way to the 26th Regiment at Pendleton.

The training was heavy, swimming with a full pack, the usual. They eventually took off for Hawaii, but with a case of spinal meningitis on-board, they were quarantined when they arrived. "It got pretty raunchy, pretty fast," he said. They used boxing matches to entertain them because they were there about five weeks, in between maneuvers off Maui.

At one point, because of his office and supply

background, he was told he'd be in the rear echelon. He told the captain, "I didn't come out here to be in the rear echelon." Dad's job was the back-up operations manager of the camp. A 40-something staff sergeant was in charge, but when he became a warrant officer and was moved out, Dad was put in charge of the manifesto of the cargo ship. He was outranked by a gunnery sergeant who was in charge of the troops. The men were vets of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Bougainville and when the gunny started treating them rough, Dad said they conspired to throw him overboard. Dad told the gunny of their plans, so he laid off the guys. Later, when Dad was on Iwo, the gunny sent him a canned ham as a thank you. Dad ended up giving it away.

February 1945: Dad was aboard an LVP in the second wave at Iwo. "We vectored for three hours before landing," he said. "Part of the reason we found out later was that the Marine Corps wanted to completely clear the beach of the some 900 bodies lost on the beach in the first wave." He believed they used a front loader to more quickly pick up the bodies. Once he waded ashore, the first thing he did was jump into a foxhole where a captain, lieutenant and corporal were already.

The sand on Iwo was so soft that some shells didn't explode upon contact. They were there quite awhile before they discovered they were on top of a U.S. 16-inch naval shell under some sand. Their sleep was uneasy. "Hell," he later said, "if it's gonna go, it's gonna go."

He recalls the 28th Regiment landed on the left and cut across the bottleneck of the island before turning to assault Suribachi ("The Sands of Iwo Jima" Hollywood film was based on the 28th). The 27th Regiment on the right cut across a narrower part of the island (a little less than a mile) and set up there. Dad's 26th set up its command post on the southwest edge of the airfield.

On the way to Iwo, he'd been put in charge of prepping the flame thrower fuel at Saipan, so once they landed at Iwo the fuel would be ready. "There were a thousand caves on Iwo and we had to flush out the enemy." On Iwo, Dad, a major and a captain went down the beach at the crack of dawn looking for the flamethrowers. The major wanted to go by the 13th Marines, a nearby artillery unit. "We no sooner got there when the Japs on Suribachi let loose with everything they had. They were 120-pound mortars—we called them floating ash cans." They hunkered down for some 40 minutes. A half dozen shells hit between 10-15 feet of him. Most of the blasts exploded in the air and went skyward, fortunately. When it seemed like the

shelling ended, he moved on down the beach, but the bombardment started right up again, so he dove into the nearest shell hole. At the other end of the hole was his captain, who shouted at him, "Well, are you sorry you came?" Dad shouted back, "I will be if I catch it—a guy could get killed here!"

On the third day of Iwo (D+3), it poured all day, with water and volcanic ash washing over them in the fox holes, which were collapsing. As the rest of the unit dug in for the night, Dad was told to get someone to help him get an AmTrac (LVT) full of weapons up to the front line. He picked a Sgt Shank from Buffalo, N.Y., and as they got close to the battle line, another sergeant ran up saying, "I'll take it from here." But Dad's orders were to report to the captain on the front line. Shank said, "They've got the AmTrac—we don't have to report to anyone, let's get outta here!" Dad countered, "We were told to report to the captain, so lock and load—we're goin'." Dad admitted he was as scared at Shank. They headed up the hill some 50 yards away, stepping around or over a lot of dead Marines. "I kept my carbine at the ready in case there were sharpshooters, letting them know they better make the first shot count."

When he found the captain, he told him his sergeant had the guns and they'd be right up. "He was white as a sheet and said, 'thank you, thank you, thank you.' Shank then whispered, 'Let's get outta here.'" By then it was getting dark, and because of the assault, they didn't think it was safe to return to their unit. They wanted to shortest route to safety, so they hitched a ride on another AmTrac down to the beach at the foot of Suribachi. "It was getting dark, and if you were moving at all you were a dead person; everyone was trigger-happy." In all this time, no doubt with all the anxiety, he'd had one can of cheese to eat in three days. "You're really focused on staying alive—not eating." They felt blessed to have found some C-rations and ended up sleeping overnight on the warm, steel deck of an LSG. They'd felt "reasonably safe" because the American flag had already been raised on Suribachi.

The next day, they found their way back to the regiment. After that, Dad said he doesn't remember the next three weeks: "I don't remember what I did, whether I did it well or not, I just don't remember." He did remember that the Army came in to relieve them when he received a letter "and it didn't go San Francisco first." Turned out, it was from a boyhood friend who was on a Merchant Marine ship about a mile off shore.

Those handling the mail knew the 26th Marines were on Iwo, so he got it a day later. He received permission to visit his friend, Kenny Webster, who later became a mailman in Arizona. He hadn't seen Kenny in three years, "so I felt like I'd done something right during my time on Iwo to get the captain's OK." He hitched a ride out to the ship and surprised Kenny. "We had spaghetti and meatballs on the ship that afternoon for lunch." Dad joked that Kenny ate better than Dad's Marines. Near the end of his time on Iwo, he recalled digging a foxhole with his shovel with another sergeant, and they made enough room where one could lay down while the other stood watch. "It was about three in the morning and I had the watch and all of a sudden I heard this noise—Phfft. Then nothing. About an hour later, it began to get light and I then saw a Jap 60-mm mortar a few yards away. If it had exploded, it would have taken

my top half off. They red-flagged it later."

The original plan was to return the regiment to Guam, "but we were so shot up they were going to take us back to the Big Island at Hawaii. The H-bomb was dropped when the ships were on their way to pick us up."

Lee Trainor's unit ended up at the Sasebo Naval Base in Japan for his last few months in the Corps, arriving in San Diego just before Christmas of 1945.

Trainor is the oldest son of Leon "Lee" Trainor Jr. and a retired radio and TV news reporter who occasionally freelances for the Quad City Times of Davenport, Iowa. He is a full-time personal historian (www.rememberyourlifevideo.com), capturing people's stories and life histories.

Chair brought back from Iwo Jima given to museum

This is a chair that a Marine brought back with him from Iwo Jima after the battle. He gave it to a 12-year-old boy selling papers on a corner and asked him to bring it home to his mother. She would have some Marines over for chicken dinners every so often. The lady, Dorene Lucas—a sister of the paper boy—called Kathy to come and get it for the museum that is planned.

Dorene said her brother passed several months ago, and his family used the chair all these years. Dorene also took Kathy and me on a tour of what was in 1944-45 the "POW" Camp. She also relayed other information of when the Marines were there.

She used to sit on the fence in front of her home and watch the Marines pass by. Her family owned a poultry farm at the time. As a side note, her grandfather was Japanese and her grandmother was Canadian. At first, when they heard the Marines were coming, the family was worried so the grandfather hid away. Then after they got to know the Marines, he came out of hiding. Dorene said the Marines were very nice to him and would help him in and out his wheelchair.

When they came back after the Iwo Jima battle, one of the Marines, who was a frequent visitor named Bagget, played a record of the "Stars and Stripes" all day long and just cried and cried because he lost so many of his buddies on Iwo Jima. Upon returning from the battle, none of them were the same smiling, laughing



and joyful Marines. They had a calm quietness about them.

This is just one more great treasure of history for our museum, the Iwo Jima chair.

– Jimmie Hyde Watson
sister of Pfc Harrydale Hyde, USMCR
A-1-27, KIA 2/28/1945 Iwo Jima

FMDA Annual Meeting Minutes

October 2017

President John Butler called the meeting to order. Vice President Kathleen Painton led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Butler commended the work of Vice President Painton, Secretary Ray Elliott and Treasurer Doug Meny.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting because a draft was already published in *The Spearhead News*. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously for approval.

Treasurer's Report: President Butler said the Association is small but spends its money carefully and wisely and is operating in the black. Prior to his financial report, Treasurer Doug Meny shared a short video about Iwo Jima and described the impact of the war bond drive that centered around the iconic photo of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi. He distributed a copy of the financial report to those in attendance. (*See accompanying report.*) He reminded that the FMDA is now a 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization that can accept tax-deductible contributions. Meny noted that the end-of-year cash balance has gone down a bit with each year – primarily on expenses to produce and mail the *Spearhead* newsletter, administrative expenses and the Reunion Journal. The good news, he said, is that the organization is solvent, anticipating that when all the accounting is completed after the reunion, the organization will have approximately \$19,000. Going forward, the newsletter is the primary expense and goes to the full membership—many of whom are not able to attend the reunions. The museum remains a major hope-for project for the Association. Annual reunions pay for themselves. Raising money is very encouraged and needed.

Old Business

FMDA Website: Mass communications major and FMDA Associate Member Dean Laubach will now be maintaining the organization's website. The new website is *5thmardiv-assoc.org*. Work is underway to populate the new site with content.

Museum at Camp Tarawa: Butler reported that new contacts are being made to assist in making the museum near Waimea a reality, although it won't be easy. Painton reported that there has been good progress since last year. Alice Clark has been collecting many things since 1995, and she is moving and therefore giving the materials to the museum for safekeeping, but they will still be owned by the War Memorial Association. A teacher from the University of Hawaii at Hilo has a student who is beginning a two-year master's program on the military in north Kohala and, specifically, Camp Tarawa Marines. So they will help catalogue materials. LtCol Marquez at the PTA said they may be able to get a Quonset hut. State Rep. Cindy Evans and State Sen. Kai Kahele are continuing to be helpful and supportive of establishing the museum. Local schools are expressing interest from an educational perspective. Butler said the Second Marine Division will be contacted to see if it wants to partner on the effort. Discussion ensued about commemorative bricks or plaques and the prospect of a walkway and other property considerations for the site.

New Business

Officers: The nominated slate of officers was approved for 2018: John Butler as president; Kathleen Painton as vice president; Ray Elliott as secretary; and Douglas Meny as treasurer.

Trustees: Monroe Ozment was appointed as a new trustee, in addition to continuing as sergeant-at-arms.

Future of the FMDA: Butler said the increase of family members and those from other defunct division associations joining the FMDA has helped keep the membership going. Two issues a year of the newsletter will continue. A motion was made and carried to explore the possibility of having a plaque of the Rabbi Gittelsohn Eulogy made and installed at the Marine Corps Heritage Museum in Triangle, Va.

2018 Reunion: There was a suggestion to have a reunion in concert with the West Coast event, but that still is in conflict with the East Coast event. IJAA will be meeting in New Orleans in February 2019. The membership in attendance voted in support of the offer for Secretary Ray Elliott to host the 2018 Reunion in Champaign-Urbana, Ill., in the Midwest as a simpler event after the grand reunion in Hawaii.

Matt the Marine: The meeting concluded with a traditional fundraiser involving Matt the Marine doll.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Ray Elliott, Secretary

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Financial Statements
As Of September 30, 2017
(Cash Basis)

Statement of Income and Expense:	2017 YTD	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
INCOME								
Dues & Donations	6,475	8,416	8,931	4,234	2,343	2,600	3,709	6,096
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	209
Reunion Journal	5,670	5,380	5,744	7,967	170	170	-	-
Reunion Registrations	32,917	9,294	5,069	7,650	7,099	-	1,782	5,403
Operating Income	<u>45,062</u>	<u>23,090</u>	<u>19,744</u>	<u>19,851</u>	<u>9,612</u>	<u>2,770</u>	<u>5,491</u>	<u>11,709</u>
Gain on sale of investment (gold) ¹	-	-	-	-	3,765	-	7,760	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>45,062</u>	<u>23,090</u>	<u>19,744</u>	<u>19,851</u>	<u>13,377</u>	<u>2,770</u>	<u>13,251</u>	<u>11,709</u>
EXPENSES								
Spearhead Newsletter (Production/Distribution) & Fund-Raising	4,193	6,134	5,394	6,059	8,868	9,537	10,645	4,764
Administrative Services	8,000	12,000	12,000	11,000	8,625	6,682	9,314	14,051
Office & Other Expenses	1,528	1,040	1,467	1,744	558	587	856	1,429
Reunion (non Journal)	33,804	7,152	5,095	10,952	8,801	2,000	-	-
Reunion Journals	4,425	2,000	1,985	4,266	-	-	-	-
Boots Thomas Memorial (see article in Spearhead)	-	189	4,849	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Paid - Camp Tarawa Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Grants Paid - Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Total Operating Expenses	<u>51,950</u>	<u>28,516</u>	<u>30,790</u>	<u>34,021</u>	<u>26,853</u>	<u>18,806</u>	<u>20,815</u>	<u>55,245</u>
TOTAL NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>(6,888)</u>	<u>(5,426)</u>	<u>(11,046)</u>	<u>(14,170)</u>	<u>(13,475)</u>	<u>(16,036)</u>	<u>(7,563)</u>	<u>(43,536)</u>
Appendix: Net Reunion (Journal/Reunion) Income/(Loss)	<u>357</u>	<u>5,522</u>	<u>3,733</u>	<u>399</u>	Note: Estimates on revenue splits have been made esp 2016.			
ASSETS (End of Calendar Year)								
Bank Account	\$18,680	\$ 25,568	\$ 30,994	\$ 42,040	\$ 56,210	\$ 33,085	\$ 49,121	\$ 56,684
Investment - Gold (at cost)	-	-	-	-	-	36,600	36,600	36,600
Total Assets	<u>18,680</u>	<u>25,568</u>	<u>30,994</u>	<u>42,040</u>	<u>56,210</u>	<u>69,685</u>	<u>85,721</u>	<u>93,284</u>
LIABILITIES								
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
NET WORTH								
	<u>\$18,680</u>	<u>\$ 25,568</u>	<u>\$ 30,994</u>	<u>\$ 42,040</u>	<u>\$ 56,210</u>	<u>\$ 69,685</u>	<u>\$ 85,721</u>	<u>\$ 93,284</u>

¹Gold proceeds sold on 8/16/2013 was \$40,365.



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2018 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

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APR 7 – 19
50th Anniversary of The Siege of Khe Sanh Ops Pegasus & Scotland I-Corps – 1968

27 May – 9 Jun
74th Anniversary of D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, WWI & Paris

APR 21 – 26 Apr
Turkey - Gallipoli Campaign WWI

1 – 9 Jun
74th Anniversary of D-Day: Normandy to Paris

JAN 27 – FEB 8
50th Anniversary of Tet Offensive I Corps of Hue City – 1968

APR 21 – 3 MAY
50th Anniversary of 1968 I-Corps & Battle of Dai Do

JUN 26 – JUL 6
Russia WWII Eastern Front Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad

MARCH 19 – 21
Iwo Jima 73rd Reunion of Honor

APR 28 – MAY 11
50th Anniversary 1968 Operations I-II-III-IV Corps "Saigon to the DMZ"

JUN 30 – JUL 12
50th Anniversary of Ops Scotland II & Robin - I-Corps

APR 3 – 13
WWII Philippines – Bataan – Cabanatuan – Corregidor

JUL 7 – 16
Spain Military & Cultural Exploration Madrid

MAY 19 – 28
100th Anniversary of WWI – 1918 Doughboys & Devil Dogs

MAY 25 – JUN 3
100th Anniversary of WWI Battlefields – 1918 Devil Dogs in France Belleau Wood, Verdun & Paris

AUG 2 – 11
Guadalcanal & Tarawa

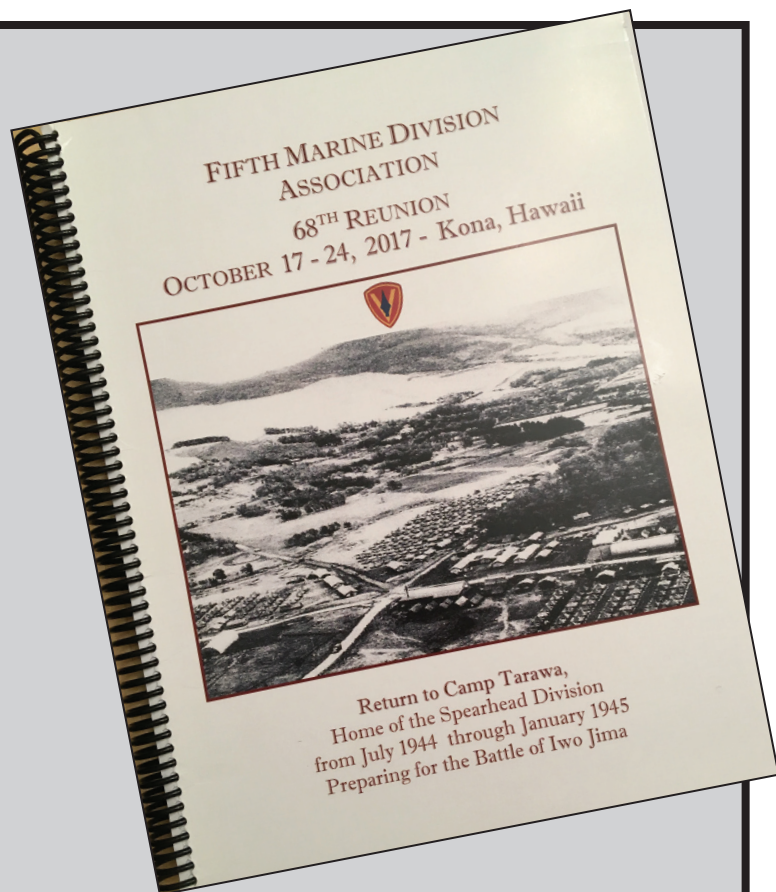
AUG 2 – 12
Imperial China Beijing - Xian - Shanghai

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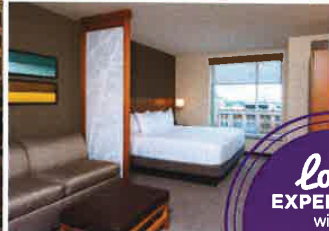
**Mail request and payment to
Fifth Marine Division Association
Attn: John Butler, President
P.O. Box 16004
Tampa, FL 33687**



The planned 2017 annual reunion on the Big Island of Hawai'i, returning to Camp Tarawa where the 5th MarDiv trained for the invasion of Iwo Jima, called for an expanded journal to include more than just the typical upcoming-reunion information of schedules, hotel, guest speakers and supporting ads.

Therefore, the following sections were added, expanding the journal into a 314-page book, which became a compilation into a possible historical reference for the FMDA and its planned Museum & Educational Center near the location of the WWII main camp.

- An overview of what wartime life in Camp Tarawa was like, information on the four locations where the troops trained (Kamuela, Pokakuloa, Hapuna Beach and Hilo), the Parker Ranch, and the choice of the island of Hawai'i as a major training site.
- A condensed version of the history of the Fifth Marine Division, from formation to deactivation, and a background on notable leaders.
- Information of the Fifth Marine Division Association and past reunions and projects.
- A section on the island of Iwo Jima itself, the defenses, landing maps, the overall Operation Detachment, and crucial elements, such as close air support, the D-2 recon mission, and the March 26 final "Banzai" attack.
- A large, comprehensive-as-possible section, including all components of the Division, attached Navy and Army units, and other units not attached to the Division but instrumental in the fight for Iwo.
- Highlights of the always-controversial Flag raisings.
- Details of the joint Japanese-American post-war Reunions on Iwo Jima.
- Recollections and remembrances from vets about their time with the Fifth—all written for, by and about Marines who were there.



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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Arrival

Hospitality Room open Tues-Fri, 1700-2200

Wednesday, Oct. 17

University of Illinois Campus -- Chez Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education; and NROTC



Thursday, Oct. 18

State Capital of Springfield -- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Lincoln's Home; and Tomb



Friday, Oct. 19

Area WWII History -- Vermilion County War Museum in Danville, Ill.; and the Ernie Pyle WWII Museum in Dana, Ind.



Saturday, Oct. 20

Annual Business Meeting; Memorial Service; Film Matinee with Veterans Recognition; and Banquet

Sunday, Oct. 21

Departures

(Reunion attendees may opt to arrive up to 3 days earlier and/or extend their stay up to 3 days afterward at the same special group rate.)

.....
• Final reunion registration details will be provided in the Spring/Summer 2018 issue of *Spearhead News*. For planning purposes, please email your reunion host to indicate your intention to attend the 2018 Reunion and interest in the Thursday and Friday excursions.
.....

Ray Elliott

talespress@talespress.com

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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