



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION
of the
5TH MARINE
DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

**66TH ANNUAL REUNION - VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
SEPTEMBER 10 - 13, 2015
HOLIDAY INN VIRGINIA BEACH-NORFOLK**

Virginia Beach to welcome FMDA 66th Reunion

Leilani and I welcome you to Virginia Beach for the 66th reunion of our Association. Although the number of days for the reunion has been shortened compared to previous years, the hotel will honor the reduced rates for three days prior to, and three days after, the reunion dates. This will allow you the opportunity to extend your stay to enjoy some of the many interesting sights in the area that include the USS Wisconsin and Nauticus (Hampton Roads Naval Museum), MacArthur Memorial, Spirit of Norfolk (Harbor and Naval Station Cruise), Virginia Aquarium, Jamestown Festival Park, Yorktown Victory Center and Colonial Williamsburg. You may also enjoy a visit to our resort beach.

The Holiday Inn we selected is conveniently located only five miles from the Virginia Beach oceanfront and downtown Norfolk. It has recently been completely renovated, provides free parking, free airport shuttle service and the room rate includes breakfast for two. The hotel also offers free shuttle service to a nearby station for "The Tide," a recently completed rapid transit carrier service for downtown Norfolk.

You will enjoy entertainment in the hospitality room on Thursday evening. The hospitality room will be open from Thursday afternoon to the end of the reunion, with soft drinks, beer, wine and water available. Thursday and Friday evening snacks will be served.

On Friday, we will visit the Military Aviation Museum, which has the largest privately owned collection of World War II and World War I airplanes, and most all of them are in flyable condition. Weather permitting, we will have a flight demonstration of the Corsair. You old guys will remember witnessing the Corsair diving and firing rockets into Mt. Suribachi during the first two days of the Iwo battle. We will have lunch at the museum, while being entertained by a gentleman who will make you think Frank Sinatra has returned. He is also a former Marine.

We look forward to seeing you in Virginia Beach and know you will enjoy the reunion. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 757-340-8784 or email me at monroezment25@hotmail.com.

– Monroe Ozment

Place your ad in the Reunion Journal by July 15. See page 25.



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THE SPEARHEAD NEWS

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

EDITOR

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In This Issue:

- Letters 4
- Final Muster 8
- Reunion chaplain Bill Krulak 8
- President’s Message 9
- FMDA to correct errors on grave marker 10
- Saga of the Bar on the Beach project 12
- Rabbi’s timeless lesson of letting go 14
- Reunion of Honor recap 16
- Dear God, thanks for the memories 17
- Craig Leman presentation 19
- Spiritied memories of Japan Occupation 21
- Business Meeting Minutes/Financials 22-23
- New Members 23
- Reunion Program 24
- Reunion Journal Advertising 25
- Reunion Registration Form 26
- Reunion Hotel Information 27

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

In a letter to current Fifth Marine Division Association President John Butler in this issue, past Association President Ivan Hammond (5thJASCO) wrote, “For several years, us old Iwo vets have been looking for the time to turn over the Fifth Marine Division Association. That time arrived when I convinced you that you could handle the reunion.”

No doubt about John being able to handle the reunion. He did an incredible job of that at the September reunion in Tampa last fall. And he continues as president this year and is aiding reunion chair Monroe Ozment (HQ-3-26) in what promises to be another rousing success in Virginia Beach, Va.

And another legacy Association member, Kathleen Painton, is serving as vice president and spearheading efforts with the Camp Tarawa Foundation to establish a museum at the entrance to the Parker Ranch where the 2nd Marine Division trained for Tarawa and the 5th Marine Division trained for Iwo Jima.

Two small memorials can be seen by the side of Mamalahoa Highway on the grounds of Parker Ranch, just outside the town of Waimea and down the road from where the Fifth Division’s slop chute was located and is still standing.

More legacy members are stepping up as officers and trustees, and others are joining or have been longtime associate members. Currently, legacy members Stephen Lopardo, legal officer; Bruce Hammond, trustee; and Penny (DeFazio) Pauletto, trustee, are serving. A new legacy category could be established as a special classification of membership.

But I’m not convinced that the Iwo Jima veterans are ready to—or should—turn over the Fifth Marine Division Association to legacy members completely just yet. There is much work yet to be done.

First, the membership can continue to be maintained and increased by adding the remaining Iwo Jima veterans who are not yet members or who have moved and left no forwarding address or have dropped. Their memories are invaluable and need to be recorded and preserved, as well as their letters, artifacts and other memorabilia for the museum and posterity to appreciate their service.

Widows, who automatically become Memorial Members when their husbands pass away, have many of those letters, artifacts and memorabilia. I frequently

Continued on page 7

THE EDITOR'S GUEST

By Caitlin Elliott



Editor's Note: Caitlin placed first in this year's District 7 and 11th in the Illinois State Voice of Democracy essay/speech scholarship program sponsored by the National VFW.

Why veterans are important to our nation's history, future

Carrying a poster bearing the name of a man my own age who died in World War II, the weight of all the lives lost seemingly in my hands, I marched alongside others on that Memorial Day in Washington, D.C. Later, at the Marine Corps War Memorial, as taps echoed through silence, everyone either saluted or placed their hand over their heart. Members of the crowd that day approached the veterans in attendance to thank them for their service. One man shared a photograph of his father, tears shining in his eyes, and expressed his gratitude for the remembrance. We were a younger generation, telling a story of veterans who fought and died for the very country I pledged allegiance to every morning at school.

We all have sat in a history class at some point in our lives, learning about the wars America has taken part in. We are told who was involved, why it started, and how it ended. However, the military men and women serving their country made the true history. Without them, our country and our freedoms would be dramatically altered. Our past and future is dependent upon veterans.

Veterans such as those in WWII, who lived through a depression and then fought the horrific battles for the freedom of future generations, preserved our way of life and continued to do so long after the war was over. They have a sense of responsibility as Americans to give back and honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom.

I have grown up surrounded by veterans—something that my parents felt was important to expose me to in order to instill ideas of democracy and patriotism. It took many years for me to learn the effects and cost of war, as the aging men and women I knew

who served revealed none of them. All I knew were the caring, generous and protective souls who, by nature, felt an internal duty to the United States. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has provided a place to connect with these veterans. I am always welcomed with open arms on the countless visits I accompany my father on.

Without these patriots, our lives would be vastly different. By using the freedom that they fought for us to have to better our society today, we are able to honor veterans and create a better world than could have been. These men and women continue to give back; long after their official service is completed—helping to provide young students such as myself with scholarships and support.

These men and women *shape* our history and future by their actions, they are entrusted with defending freedom and security. The peace of mind I feel in my country and my ability to choose whatever career path I deem fitting is all due to their dedication to the principles that built this country.

A retired Army sergeant from my hometown, Garrett Anderson, said, “Love and respect of country is passed down from the veteran to his or her family. We know the price of freedom.” It’s a comment that I think succinctly describes the importance of veterans. Sgt. Anderson was severely wounded in Iraq and now is actively involved in veterans’ affairs. I have heard him speak at events on several occasions and am inspired by the life he built for himself after returning home—graduating from college and starting a family. It is these kinds of stories of determination, recovery, and the spreading of goodwill that maintains veterans’ relevance in our lives as Americans.

I struggle to comprehend all that veterans have endured in the name of liberty. Just think about them coming back after honorably serving their country, only to pursue further education or careers and become leaders in their communities—advocating for rights to better tomorrow’s world. Veterans serve as examples to society, demonstrating perseverance and exercising their freedoms as Americans. These men and women should be the ones we go to for leadership—and we, in turn, must take care of them.

All America’s triumphs along the way, cataloged in history books, have led to where we are today. Veterans, who were my age at the time of their initial service, are essential to this progress. They continue to lead our society towards decisions that will not simply affect the future, but improve it.

Continued on page 7

A letter to the FMDA president

For several years, us old Iwo vets have been looking for the time to turn over the Fifth Marine Division Association. That time arrived when I convinced you that you could handle the reunion. I never doubted you could do it.

Your pedigree from LtCol John Butler II just exudes from you, and for that matter, from your brother, Morey. I don't know Clint very well, but no doubt he is on board also.

I am very proud of the way you handled the reunion in Tampa. It was a magnificent job.

I presented Ralph Simoneau's reorganization plans to the executive committee. He worked three years on the document, and I could not see all his work go down the drain. However, now that we have transferred the Fifth Marine Division Association to the next generation, I am not sure it fits the needs of the Association.

I am proud you took it on your own to step up as president. Now, I believe your new organization must make the president CEO and let him run it. I would look at the IJAA constitution and bylaws perhaps as a guide. I would use the Board of Directors in lieu of trustees, but try to keep it simple.

I had been looking for the right time to step down when I asked Bonnie Haynes if she would volunteer. I have been trying to get her on board and everything fell into place. I'm glad Warren Musch decided to hand it over also. He and I have been appointed for the last four years. I served from 2007 to 2014.

The history of the next generation taking over other organizations has been iffy. The Wichita Falls (Texas) Iwo organization of Cy Young is being closed in February after a final meeting. Cy Young was a Navy lieutenant on board the USS Nevada at Iwo. The USS Houston has a viable organization that is working well. I belong to it.

At this time, I have great hope that, with you at the helm, it can last through to the grandchildren. I have enjoyed the time working for the betterment of the Fifth Marine Division Association. We'd seen some interesting battles with the trustees along the way. The most important battle we won was getting the Bar on the Beach monument started and completed.

I want to thank Ray Elliott for staying with us through the rough times. He has done a wonderful job,

and I think the latest issue is as good as it gets.

John, I look forward to seeing a great next generation running the Fifth Marine Division Association.

– Ivan Hammond, 5thJASCO
Santa Fe, TX

Looking for photo featuring 4 men on Iwo

Some time ago, I came across a photo of four men on Iwo. The photo was on a page in one of the mailings in a book. I can't remember which and can't find it. I had a copy of the photo in my possession, and I can't find that one either.

The picture is of four Marines on Iwo. The only one identified (in the publication) is Jack Lummus (E-2-27 Medal of Honor recipient). There are many perpendicular lines in the photo, which were blamed on Iwo Jima conditions.

The four men (I served with), left to right, are sitting: W.O. Gray, Bill Wallace, Jack Lummus and Sam McNaughton. The camera belonged to Wallace, and I have quite a few pictures taken with the same camera on the island of Hawai'i with the same lines in the photos.

Does anyone remember the photos I'm speaking of? And does anyone else have that photo?

– Walter O'Malley, E-2-27
Clinton, MA

Editor's note: I don't recall seeing the photo, but I do encourage all Iwo Jima veterans and families to collect photos, letters, artifacts and other memorabilia from the Iwo Jima campaign to save for posterity. We hear far too many stories about families of World War II veterans throwing out those things when the veteran passes away.

Letter to Ivan Hammond from a grateful young friend

Dear Mr. Hammond:

Greetings. I wanted to write and thank you so much for taking the time to talk to me while I was on the Iwo Jima trip. I wanted to write and ask you what you got most out of the trip. Was it difficult to go back to Iwo Jima?

I am going to give a presentation to my class on

Iwo Jima soon. What do you think is the most important aspect of the battle I need to tell my classmates?

Also, have you ever written about your experiences? If so, can you send me a copy of what you have written? And last, may I have a signed photograph of you when you were in uniform? I would like to put that up in my room.

Thank you again for your service to our country.

– Justin Rigg
Dallas, TX

Editor's note: *Ivan sent the letter and a year's membership to the Fifth Marine Division Association with the following note: "This young man is 12 years old, and he and his dad were on the Iwo trip with us (in March). He interviewed many Iwo vets. He is our next generations, and I want to pay a year's dues for him."*

Original Spearhead donated

Enclosed is an item from my husband's Marine things. Hope you can use it. It is an old copy of *The Spearhead* (No. 1).

My husband passed away in December 2010: Frederick J. Ponstein, Cpl D-2-28, Purple Heart—Iwo Jima. Good luck with your project.

– Mary P. Ponstein
Downers Grove, IL

Editor's Note: *Thank you. We appreciate very much the Spearhead (No. 1) that you sent. It will be displayed in the future Camp Tarawa Museum.*

Surviving spouses can continue to receive The Spearhead

My husband, Robert C. Martin, F-2-28, passed away on Sept. 3, 2014. We were blessed with almost 61 years of marriage. We retired and left Urbana-Champaign, Ill., in 1986. He was Champaign County recorder, and I retired from English Brothers Company. Bob enjoyed *The Spearhead News*, and I would appreciate still receiving it, if possible.

– Nita Martin
Aiken, SC

Editor's note: *Spouses of paid-up Iwo Jima veterans become Memorial Members of the Association, according to Art. II, Sec. 7, of the Constitution of the Fifth Marine Division Association: "The spouse of*

a deceased person eligible for membership under Section 1 hereof is eligible for Memorial membership in the Association." So you will continue receiving the newsletter. Thanks for sending your change of address.

Spearhead replicas great idea

The copies of the *Spearhead* (replicas Nos. 1, 2 and 3) arrived in good shape. What a great idea to replicate these issues.

– Rose Marie Wilcox
Herndon, VA

Fitting end to life well lived

My father, Eugene B. Kobel, was a Pfc in A Company, 5thENGR, from February 1943 until his discharge as a corporal in March 1946. He passed away on Feb. 3, 2015, just short of his 92nd birthday.

My father was a proud Marine until the day he died. He would have been very pleased that three Marines in dress uniform were present at the cemetery service to play a final Taps and present out family with the American flag. It was certainly a fitting ending to a life well lived.

I hope it will be possible to post his Final Muster notice in a future issue of the *Spearhead* newsletter. If I could receive a copy of the newsletter, I would be very appreciative.

– Theresa M. Kobel
New York, NY

Editor's note: *It is customary to send one more copy to the member's address after the Final Muster notice is posted to keep the widow as a Memorial Member and enlist the family as Legacy members.*

Looking for information on Wilbur A. Young

I'm hoping to learn where to find information about my relative, Wilbur A. Young. I think he was a corporal in the 28th regiment on Iwo Jima.

– Noel Young
Sheridan, WY

Editor's note: *Wilbur Young was in the 27th Replacement Battalion and was WIA on Iwo Jima.*

Continued on page 6

Looking for information on Preble Staver

I've been associated with the Fifth Marine Division Association for several years as an Associate Life Member. Preble Staver and our Uncle Billy Porter (Covington, Ga.) served in Iwo Jima together. Billy did not survive.

Could you give me any information about my friend, Preble Staver, and his wife, Isabelle. They were living in Buffton, S.C. (20 years ago), Richmond Hill, Ga. (10-15 years ago), and then we believe the last location we had for them was Norfolk, Va. (six-eight years ago).

I'd appreciate knowing his mailing information or contact information; or, if we missed his listing in the Final Muster, I'd like to know when he was listed.

– Steve Kiser
Buffton, SC

Editor's note: Preble Staver lives in Norfolk, Va. One can often find people by going on Google and writing their name and city, followed by white pages and find the name and address. When newsletters are returned postage due with no forwarding address, we Google the name and city followed by obituary. If the person has passed away, his obituary comes up.

Looking for information on Thomas Roberts

My great uncle, Thomas Roberts, KIA 19 February 1945, was in the Fifth Marine Division at Iwo Jima. I (went) to the 70th anniversary service at Iwo Jima.

I would like to find out which regiment he was in. Also, I wanted to acquire a Fifth Marine Division lapel pin to wear at the ceremony.

– John Cook
Kemah, TX

Editor's note: Thomas J. Roberts is listed as KIA in The Spearhead, The World War History of the Fifth Marine Division, as a private. There is also a Thomas J. Roberts listed as a member of the 13th Marine Regiment as a corporal. Perhaps they are the same. We haven't checked further. Several places on the internet have lapel pins for sale.

New life member has family ties

Please enroll me as a new Life Member of the Association. (Check enclosed.) My father, Earl Piper, was the G-4 of the 5th MarDiv in the battle for Iwo Jima. He retired as a brigadier general in June 1957. I am his oldest son, born 30 March 1936.

My father and John Butler's father, "Tex," were good friends; they had served together in Panama in the late '30s. When John's father was KIA on Iwo, my father wrote a letter of condolence to Mrs. Butler, which John still has.

I served 26 years of active duty as a Marine infantry officer and retired at MCRD Parris Island.

– Earl S. Piper, Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
Greenville, SC

Reminiscing about Camp Tarawa

Thank you for sending me *The Spearhead*. I found it most interesting as I remember very well the old "Slop Chute" at Camp Tarawa. I also remember the "Kinacki Wagon," as we called it, that was parked right outside the gate to the base by night. It was used as a place to sell cans of fruit juice and sandwiches by some of the native Hawaiians.

As I recall, the beer that was dispensed at the Slop Chute was free, and it was served two cans at a time, opened and warm. There were a number of lines dispensing the beer, and they were very long so the guys would get immediately back in line until the place closed. As I recall, the bar was only open for a short period of time and not every night.

I do not know if there was any other place on base where beer was available, so this was a very busy place.

On the opposite side of the base, there was a general store called "Chocks" where incidentals were available, and in the center of the town of Kamulea was a general store and a small restaurant where a good breakfast was available at a fair price, if you could get in as it was always crowded.

Probably the most popular place at night was what was called the USO Club. There were occasional dances and Bob Crosby, our divisional band, would perform. This building later became the Parker Ranch School. We were also visited by an occasional USO troupe at our Kama Rock theater, named after an outcrop on the west side of Iwo Jima.

SECRETARY

Continued from page 2

The only other thing available on base that I remember was the baseball field, which was also the parade field.

I have visited Hawaii several times in past years and am a member of the Camp Tarawa Detachment of the Marine Corps League. I was very fortunate to have met John Raleigh of the Hawaii Tribune on a visit to the island. Along with Charlie Nightingale of our Association and others, we were instrumental in getting the memorial on the base in 1985. Our Association contributed \$5,000 to the memorial at the time.

We contributed \$10,000 to the Camp Tarawa Foundation for the purchase of uniforms for its color guard and other projects.

Jim Browne (now deceased) and Kathy Painton and members of the Camp Tarawa Foundation have worked very hard to preserve the history of Camp Tarawa. They deserve our full support, with a sizable donation, to continue their work.

I am also enclosing an article I wrote to the paper in my hometown. I think it would be interesting to those who were in Fukuoka at that time. I landed on the seaplane ramps in Sasabo with F-2-26, and part of us were sent to Fukuoka.

Some time later, units of the 26th Marines were sent to Peleliu, so I heard many stories in later years about those who went there. Every time I reread the article (“Little-known POWs buried in Peleliu cemetery” in *Spearhead News*), I visualize the prisoners marching in cadence. Very touching!

– Mike Dietz (5thJASCO)
Lake Delton, WI

Editor’s note: Contributions for the Camp Tarawa Museum and other foundation projects can be sent to Kathleen Painton, Camp Tarawa Foundation, P.O. Box 385551, Waikoloa, HI 96738. You can also Google the memorial at the entrance to the Parker Ranch.

EDITOR’S GUEST

Continued from page 3

The man pictured in the poster I was carrying happened to be from my father’s hometown, but he could have been anyone’s grandfather, father, or brother. However, we can benefit from the heroes still with us, long after they have returned home. We are so much better off having veterans here to lead us to a future filled with remembrance and hope.

receive notes and items from both veterans and widows. Mary Ponstein, whose letter is in this issue, recently sent me an original copy of *Spearhead* Number 2 about the Iwo Jima Campaign. Her husband, Frederick “Jack” Ponstein (D-2-28) passed away in December 2010. Other widows, veterans and legacy members have sent flags, past copies of *Spearhead News*, photos and books, all of which are appropriate for deposit and display in the proposed museum.

Other issues for consideration:

- Secure 501(c)3 tax-deductible status for the Association—currently in progress.
- Continue to make *Spearhead*, No. 1 (Training), No. 2 (Iwo Jima) and No. 3 (Occupation) replicas available with originals available on display in the Camp Tarawa Museum, and collect a complete set of *Spearhead News* from 1949 through the present for the museum archives. At this point, people have sent past copies reaching into the ‘60s, but we are still collecting them. I’ve also proposed a book or collection of the best of FMDA articles. There is a treasure trove of stories to make available for posterity.
- Now published only twice a year, continue to have *The Spearhead News* be the source to find pertinent articles and stories about the men of the 5th Marine Division, reunions and coverage of relevant news about the Association. But with input from members, it can also be a resource of sites where families and other interested people can visit to learn more about and understand the Fifth Marine Division (for example: the Iwo Jima section of the Marine Corps Heritage Museum, the Marine Corps War Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery in the D.C. area; Camp Pendleton, Calif; Camp Tarawa and the proposed museum on the Big Island of Hawai’i, Iwo Jima for the annual Reunion of Honor; and Japan, particularly the Sasebo area, where the division landed for the occupation. Such stories would come from members who travel to those areas and are willing to share their unique experiences.

As always, please send your annual membership dues, address updates, questions, comments, advice and letters to me at 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802. Together in a united effort, the Association will continue and thrive.

– Ray Elliott, Secretary



FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")



ABRAMOWITZ, Morris **G-3-13** 12/15/2014
 AUTREY, George B. **HQB-8THFLDEP** 4/30/2012
 BOUGHTON, Wes M. **5TH SIG** 11/29/2014
 BRENNEMAN, Leo W. **I-3-27** 1/17/2011
 BUSZKA, David **HQ-5TH SERV/SPLY** 11/8/2014
 CHRISTIE, James T. **B-1-26** 3/5/2013
 EIB, Oscar E. "Gene" **B-1-28** 9/29/2014
 GIETZEN, Charles H. **D-2-13** 9/22/2014 (*correction*)
 GRUNEWALD, Ralph H. **F-2-26** 1/16/2015
 HASSON, Eugene J. **C-1-26** 6/1/2014
 HUNLEY, Kenneth V. **6THWDPLT** 10/7/2010
 KLAMM, William F. **D-2-28** 1/20/2013
 KUCZYNSKI, Walter J. **5TH SERV BTN** 2/11/1997
 MARTIN, Robert C. **F-2-28** 9/3/2014
 MURPHY, James J. **E-2-27** 1/10/2014
 NORRIS, Okley **I-3-13** 10/21/2012
 RUNKLE, Kenneth A. **HQ-2-26** 8/7/2014
 SHOOP, Cal **G-3-28** 6/11/2014
 STINEFORD, Charles H. **HQ-28** 3/9/2009
 STURKEY, MAJ Ralph J. **HQ-BN** 8/6/2012
 TEBBETS, George **A-1-27** 11/8/2014
 THOMAS, Daniel **C-1-28** 12/24/2014
 WELLS, John W. **F-2-26** 11/11/2014
 WRIGHT, Frank J. **B-1-28** 11/6/2014



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 217-384-5820.

OTHER REUNIONS

USS Indianapolis CA-35 Survivors Organization
 July 23-26, 2015
 Hyatt Regency, Indianapolis, IN
 Register at www.ussindyreunion.com by June 30

USS Iwo Jima Shipmates
 Sept. 13-16, 2015
 Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge, LA
 Make room reservation by Aug. 3 at
www.crowneplaza.com/execcenterbtr



Meet 2015 reunion chaplain, Rev. Bill Krulak

A retired Episcopalian priest and former Marine infantry officer will give the invocation and benediction at the memorial service and closing banquet of the Fifth Marine Division Association's 66th reunion in Virginia Beach.

The Rev. William Krulak retired as a USMCR Col in 1983. Commissioned as a second lieutenant on graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1962, he served 15 years on active duty as an infantry officer, which included two tours in Vietnam. In Vietnam, he commanded two rifle companies in separate regiments and also served as assistant operations officer for the 7th Marine Regiment.

He is the middle son of three brothers from a noted Marine family. His younger brother, Charles, was the Corp's 31st commandant; and his older brother, Victor, who also served as a Marine infantry officer, became an Episcopalian priest and continued to serve as a U.S. Navy chaplain.

His father, Victor Krulak, "known as Brute" was a Lt Gen and CO of FMFPAC and America's foremost expert on guerrilla warfare during the Vietnam War era. In WWII, he commanded the 2nd Marine Parachute Battalion during the daring diversionary raid on Choiseul Island, which preceded the main landing on Bougainville. Many of the parachutists from this special outfit came into the Fifth Marine Division after the Paramarine Regiment was disbanded. Their contribution to the Division's legacy was immense.

Our chaplain, indeed, has USMC blood in his veins.

– John Butler, President

President outlines Division's futures goals

Since the Tampa reunion, a lot has happened going forward. First and foremost, Monroe Ozment has been hard at work to put together the 66th reunion in Virginia Beach; and while it will be shorter than recent reunions, it will be a quality reunion event. The Association has committed to have a Corsair flight demonstration from the air museum, and Monroe has lined up musicians to entertain us in the hospitality room on Thursday night and at the banquet. He has also arranged to have a former Marine sing Frank Sinatra songs at our lunch on the Military Aviation Museum trip. We sure hope we get a good turnout and the weather cooperates.

My wife, Kath, is working hard to produce another top-notch Reunion Journal. In order to pay for the cost of producing the journal, I want to encourage members to send in personal memorial ads and unit remembrances. The ad cost sheet is in another section of the newsletter. All ads should be mailed to Fifth Marine Division Association, P.O. Box 16004, Tampa, FL 33687. Checks should be made out to the Fifth Marine Division Association. Please endeavor to send ads as soon as possible, but no later than July 15. I might add that if any member knows of a business that may want to have an ad in our journal, please sell the ad. There will be no commission, but I will buy a beer for anyone who solicits a commercial ad.

I believe the Association needs to establish realistic and doable goals and below are some of them:

- To secure the legacy of the Division and its most critical role in the Pacific War.
- To continue to hold reunions that are geared toward uniting survivors and the family members.
- These reunions will be shorter and affordable. At some point, having a joint reunion with another organization (so long as the Fifth Division retains a component of the joint reunion) may need to be considered.
- To continue publishing *The Spearhead News*, which has been in the able hands of Ray Elliott since 2008. It has already been necessary to reduce the frequency of publication because of cost and time

restraints on the part of the editor. When one considers what goes into this publication, we should all be grateful, appreciative and thankful for Ray Elliott.

- To keep up with the times, we need to develop an Association web page and possibly a Facebook page. There is already a credible Fifth Marine Division website posted by a young man whose great uncle was a Fifth Division member.

- To fund and build a small museum at Camp Tarawa. Kathy Painton, our vice president, is spearheading an effort in Hawaii to establish a museum on the old Parker Ranch site. This museum will be called the Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center. There is a lot of work to be done and funds to be raised, and it may be necessary to partner with the Second Marine Division Association in the endeavor. Kathy will have further information on the status of this project. Members should start collecting old memorabilia (like letters, maps and uniforms) to send to her for storage even before the museum is completed. More information on this will be forthcoming in *The Spearhead News* and at the general meeting in Virginia Beach.

- To restore the headstone of a Fifth Marine Division hero. I have recently committed the Association to help fund and properly restore the headstone of Ernest Boots Thomas who contributed to the first flag raising and was awarded a posthumous Navy Cross for his heroics as a platoon sergeant with E-2-28. His improperly marked headstone at his gravesite in Monticello, Fla., needs to be corrected. For supporting this, I have insisted the Spearhead logo be placed on the headstone. It is anticipated this event will elicit publicity, something we as an organization must do at every opportunity. Every member of the organization should do what he can to attract attention, raise funds and invite membership.

These are the direction and goals I feel the Association should pursue as we go forward. I welcome input and a strong participatory at the general meeting in Virginia.

– John Butler, President

FMDA mobilizes to correct errors on grave marker of flag-raiser

By Ray Elliott

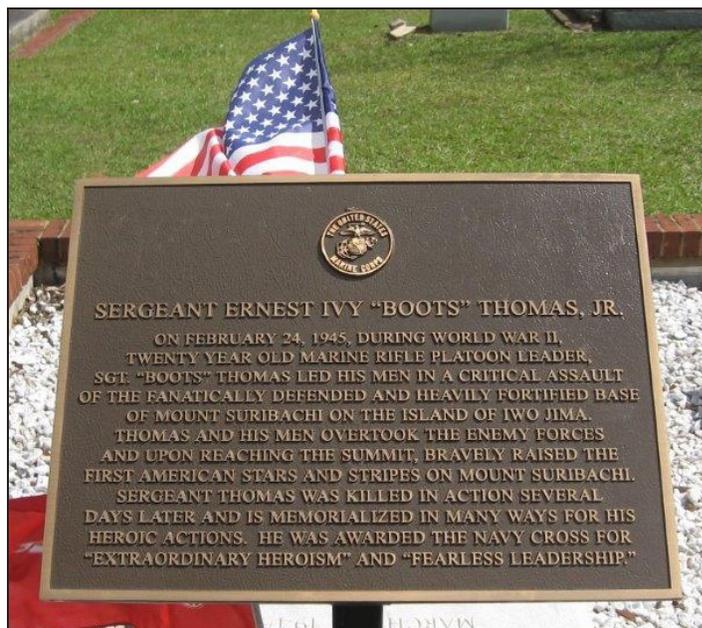
Sgt Ernest Ivy “Boots” Thomas, E-2-28, one of the men who raised the first flag on Mount Suribachi on 23 February 1945 was later killed on 3 March, eight days later, and a week before his 21st birthday. Two days before the flag was raised, Sgt Thomas had taken over Third Platoon after the platoon commander was wounded.

That same day, he directed tank fire as he and his men assaulted a Japanese position at the base of Mount Suribachi and neutralized the sector, contributing to making it possible to capture Suribachi and raise the flag. For that action, Sgt Thomas was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

Buried on Iwo Jima until 1948, his body was returned to his home in Monticello, Fla., and buried in Roseland Cemetery. After all these years, it was recently brought to the attention of Jennings Bunn (booniestomper1@gmail.com), a resident of Live Oak, Fla., who is not a Marine veteran but who has traveled extensively in the Pacific Theater of World War II and recently was on Iwo Jima with Military Historical Tours for the 70th Anniversary Reunion of Honor, that there was a historical mistake on the plaque at Thomas’ grave stating that the first flag was raised on 24 February 1945—when, in fact, it was 23 February.

“The historical mistake was brought to my attention by Kent Dozark (of Tampa), whom I got to know on Guam prior to our going to Iwo Jima,” Bunn wrote in a recent email. “After returning back home to Florida, Kent contacted me concerning Sgt. Thomas’ grave site and the error on the plaque, and my sister and I drove over to visit the grave site.

“The mistake on the plaque is obvious, but it was my sister who noticed the error on the granite slab. It states he died 3 March, “five days after helping raise the flag.” That would have been eight days” after the flag was raised.



The memorial plaque at the gravesite of Sgt Ernest “Boots” Thomas in Roseland Cemetery, Monticello, Fla., indicates that the flag was raised on Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 24, 1945, when it was actually raised on Feb. 23. The Fifth Marine Division Association wants to correct the error to set the record straight.

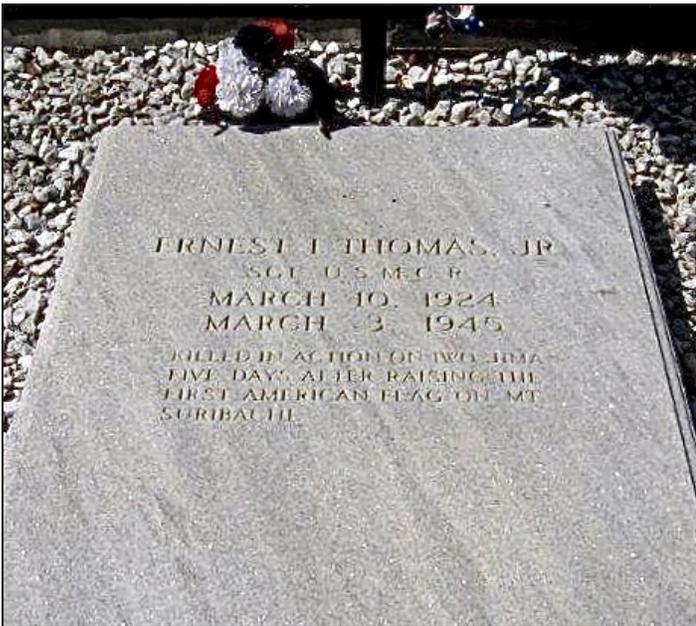
(Photo by Kent Dozark)

And that would have been a week before his 21st birthday on March 10. The information for the gravestone was apparently copied from a newspaper clipping, historians believe, as reported by WCTV, Channel 6 News in Tallahassee.

Bunn began contacting the media and members of the Marine Corps community to correct the inaccuracies. When he emailed Warren Wiedhahn, Bunn said, “When Kent brought this to my attention, I was then committed to seeing this corrected. Sgt Thomas gave his life, just a week before his 21st birthday. As Americans, we will remember his sacrifice.”

In an initial email, Bunn wrote, “This information has been sent to the local CBS News in Tallahassee, to the Marine Corps Historical Division in Quantico and to a retired WWII general, but seems there is no interest.”

Then on May 6, WCTV, Channel 6 from Tallahassee contacted Bunn and asked him to meet reporter Kevin Clark at the cemetery—which Bunn did. Clark had talked with Emilie Anderson, Monticello city clerk, who told him of Dr. James Sledge, a distant relative of Eugene “Sledgehammer” Sledge, Marine veteran of Peleliu and Okinawa and author of *With The Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa*. Dr. Sledge, who had been a lieutenant in the Army Air Corps and a close friend of Boots during and after school, joined Bunn and Clark in the cemetery. The coverage mentions the



Thomas was one of the men who raised the first flag on Mt. Suribachi. He died eight days after that historic moment—not five, as it is mistakenly engraved on the stone marker at his gravesite. *(Photo Kent Dozark)*

inaccuracies and says, “Friends in the community say they need help giving ‘Boots’ the historical accuracy he deserves.”

Through a series of emails, it was brought to the attention of Fifth Marine Division Association President John Butler, in Tampa, whose father LtCol John Butler was also killed on Iwo Jima and was also awarded the Navy Cross posthumously. Butler immediately said that correcting the information on the headstone should be done and is a project the Fifth Marine Division Association should undertake.

“As a starter,” he said, “we would need to contact family members who still live in the area. This falls in line with one of our current goals to locate family members of the Fifth Division Iwo veterans and invite them to join the Association and contribute to perpetuating the legacy established by their fathers and grandfathers 70 years ago.”

Records show Thomas’ father died in 1939, his mother in 1968, his brother John Thornton “Jack” Thomas in 2014 and his twin sister Martha Jean Thomas Bishop in 2008. Jack was reportedly survived by two sons, three daughters, 15 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives. At the time of her death, Martha was reported to have been survived by her brother Jack and two grandchildren, a son-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

So there seem to be many relatives, but Butler has asked Bunn to secure a time estimate for completion, to set a date for unveiling for appropriate publicity and cost and the Association will pay for it while accepting donations. Bunn got the estimate from Madison Marble Works in Monticello. That follows:

“The cost to replace the marble slab and bronze, adding the additional emblem and making corrections, is \$4,371.00, plus tax for a total of \$4,676.97. This price includes removing the existing monument and installing the new one. The changes are as follows: Change ‘five days to eight days on slab’; change ‘Feb. 24 to Feb. 23’ on bronze and add additional emblem (the Fifth Marine Division insignia).

“Please send deposit of one-half to Madison Marble Works LLC, and we will get to work. We will have to order the slab and bronze, so expect approximately 60-120 days before we can have it ready to go to the cemetery.”

Bunn said, “It is a bit more than expected, but this will entail removing and replacing the marble slab covering the grave, replacing the bronze marker and the addition of the Fifth Marine insignia.”

To accomplish the goal, Butler says a funding and publicity effort will be needed. “Any help we can get from the Marine Corps Association, the Iwo Jima Association of American, Military Historical Tours, other organizations and individuals would be appreciated,” Butler said. “Donors can contribute to a special fund the Association will set up. In the meantime, let’s roll.”

**Contributions may be sent
to Fifth Marine Division
Association
President John Butler
P.O. Box 16004
Temple Terrace, FL 33678
(Earmarked for the
Sgt Ernest “Boots” Thomas
slab and bronze plaque
correction and restoration)**

The saga of the Bar on the Beach project

The Bar on the Beach project began at the 2006 Fifth Marine Division Association reunion in Dallas. It was voted down because of unclear costs and poor presentation. At the 2007 reunion in Raleigh, N.C., it was voted down again.

Trustee chair Jack Lauck appointed John Huffhines and Tom Tyre to develop cost figures and a contract with sculptor Robert Eccleston. After the executive meeting ended, I suggested to John that, for a project this large, an ad hoc committee outside of the Association should be formed with a 501(c)3 designation. Soon after, Bert, John, Tom, MajGen Fred Haynes and Ken Watterson became ad hoc committee members.

Bert donated \$5,000 to get the project started. Mike Dietz wrote a letter to the trustees stating that he did not object to the formation of the ad hoc committee. Within a few months, Bert had raised \$40,000.

At the 2008 Washington reunion, Ken obtained approval of a decision of \$40,000 from the Fifth Marine Division Association for the BOTB fund.

When I became president of the Association in 2009, I requested that Bert and John send me their complete data. The status was as follows: 1) MajGen Donald Gardner had approved the project for The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and the statue would be located at the new National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va.; 2) Tom had a proposed contract with Robert Eccleston; 3) Bert had a \$40,000 in the ad hoc account; and 4) The Fifth Marine Division Association had approved by a 4-1 trustee vote to donate \$40,000 for the BOTB statue.

Tom passed away suddenly, so Ed Mabry, a Marine from 1950-54 and an excellent attorney, became the Association's legal officer. I took all of Bert's and John's data, along with the Association's 1949 Constitution and by-laws, to Ed. After he reviewed the information, the first comment he made was that we did not have a trustee chairman, as per the 1949 by-laws. He stated that the president is the CEO and runs the organization.

He further stated that everything was in place, and as president, I could legally sign the contract with the sculptor. It would become a legal document in the state of New York. I explained to Ed that for some 60 years, the Association had had a head trustee chairman. He replied that it made no difference and past practice should not be allowed. I signed the contract with the sculptor on Feb. 19, 2009.

Bert sent the \$40,000 to pay the first half of the sculptor's fee. On the day that I signed the contract, I sent all of the information to the trustees. I explained, step-by-step, how the decision was made. Three of the trustees did not agree with me.

When the sculptor's second \$40,000 installment was due, the Fifth Marine Division Association would not release the \$40,000 that was approved in 2008. Bert cashed in two of his CDs and sent a check for \$40,000 to the sculptor to complete the statue. The statue was completed in six months. When Bert did not receive the money from the Association to repay him, he advised the Association treasurer that a lawyer would be sending a subpoena. Two days later, Bert received a \$40,000 cashier's check.

The Association owed \$20,000 to Col Charles Waterhouse for the rights to use his painting, The Bar Man. Though the Fifth Marine Division Association refused to pay that, also, Bert sent the \$20,000 to pay Col Waterhouse. We now had to raise \$27,000 for the pedestal to support the statue.

Bert's health was failing, so he sent the money at hand, \$7,000. Then I set up an account in one of our local banks. I succeeded Bert as secretary of the ad hoc committee and began additional fund raising.

At the 2009 reunion, I requested and received permission to represent the Fifth Marine Division Association until the project was complete. We began corresponding with LtGen Ron Christmas and BrigGen Gerald McKay. I kept them informed of our progress and, in turn, they kept me informed of the progress of the trails on the grounds of the museum where the BOTB statue would be situated.

The weight of the pedestal and bronze statue was determined to be 7,200 pounds and 800 pounds, respectively. Civil engineering friends provided a drawing of a concrete reinforced foundation, and copies were sent to Gen McKay.

The concrete foundation was poured, and on Nov. 3, 2010, Robert Eccleston directed the installation of the three-piece pedestal and statue. Due to additional costs, we needed \$6,000 to reach the \$127,000 total cost of the BOTB. Again, an anonymous donor came through.

The Iwo Jima Association of America and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation provided excellent guidance and support. The dedication on Feb. 18,



The Ivan Hammond family gathers after the dedication of the Bar on the Beach statue on Feb. 18, 2011, in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. Left to right are daughter Lynn Payton, wife Aline, Ivan, daughter Cynthia Hammond Touchstone, daughter Claudia Brown and son Bruce. Kneeling in front is the sculptor, Robert Eccleston. On May 12, 2015, Cynthia passed away after a long illness. In addition to her family pictured, she is survived by her husband, two daughters and son-in-law. Cynthia often worked with her father on behalf of the Fifth Marine Division Association and set a great example of involvement by legacy members.
(Photo provided by Ivan Hammond)

2011, was done with dignity and respect. I treasure the remarks of Gen Joe Dunsford, LtGen Ron Christmas and LtGen Hank Stackpole. Each of them made me proud to always be a Marine. In them, I can see that the Marine Corps is in excellent hands for years to come.

This is how the BOTB project was completed. We honored the 203 contributors with their names on

a plaque placed on the pedestal. The amount of each individual's contributions will never be published. Only Bert and I knew the amounts. I believe that this monument represents both the Fifth Marine Division, and all of the men who served on Iwo Jima in one of the most epic battles in our Marine Corps history.

**– Ivan Hammond, 5thJASCO
 Past President**

Rabbi's timeless lesson of letting go

By Ray Elliott

Heading out to the Pacific to attend the March 21 Reunion of Honor ceremony for the 70th Anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima, I started reading author Lee Mandel's biography of Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, *Unlikely Warrior—A Pacifist Rabbi's Journey from the Pulpit to Iwo Jima*. Knowing that I was going to be standing near the same spot where the rabbi had been selected by Navy CDR Warren Cuthriell, the division chaplain and a Southern Baptist, to deliver the eulogy at the dedication of the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery where 1,876 officers and men in the division lay buried exactly 70 years earlier on March 21, 1945, I could think of nothing more appropriate to read on the long plane rides from Illinois.

I knew the story and have read the eulogy several times. The book goes into detail about the rabbi's life as a pacifist before joining the Navy and becoming the

first Rabbi chaplain to serve with the Marine Corps and the only Jewish chaplain on Iwo Jima. And it goes into specific detail about the firestorm created when Gittelsohn was selected to give the eulogy at the dedication.

Because of protests from both Catholic and Protestant chaplains, Mandel writes, and the six Catholic chaplains all saying they would not participate if the sermon of a Jew was featured and would encourage all Catholic Marines to boycott the ceremony, the dedication became a religious clash after Marines of all faiths had won the battle. Not wanting to cause further problems for Cuthriell, Gittelsohn withdrew from the combined service that the chaplains had objected to, even though Cuthriell was not going to back down.

It had been his responsibility to plan the dedication of the cemetery and have a joint service as had been planned for the three divisions. Division Commander Gen Keller Rockey would speak first in a secular



Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn delivers his now-famous eulogy to a group of Jewish Marines on March 21, 1945. The photo is from the personal collection of Sam Bernstein, pictured in a helmet fourth from the left in the back row.

ceremony for the Fifth Division, then the three major faiths would unite in a religious ceremony in a single religious memorial service. But because Gittelsohn was known as an excellent speaker and preacher, Cuthriell wanted the eulogy delivered by the rabbi.

He did deliver the eulogy, the eulogy he had titled, “The Purest Democracy”—at the rear of the cemetery. He had thanked Cuthriell but decided to withdraw to avoid further controversy and impropriety.

In his opening remarks, Gen Rockey said, “We are here today to dedicate the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery on Iwo Jima. Under these white crosses lie 1,876 officers and men who gave their lives in the capture of this island”... and by saying, “The finest tribute which we can pay these men who lie here is in dedicating ourselves to maintain in our organizations the high standards of courage and devotion which they have nobly set.”

Then when the men started to go to different parts of the cemetery for their respective service, Sam Bernstein (5thPION) was serving as the rabbi’s enlisted assistant and remembers well what the rabbi said:

“Sammy, go gather the boys. Tell them to meet us at the rear of the cemetery. We’ll hold our own service.”

There are different versions, of course. Some accounts say there were 40 to 50 Jewish Marines at the service where Gittelsohn gave the speech that was later copied by Marines and distributed throughout the division and eventually around the country. For years it has been available in books and now on the Internet. Association legal officer Steve Lopardo supplied a copy of the original that was published in the Winter 2012-13 issue of *Spearhead News*. Lopardo said, “It is the greatest speech I’ve ever hear/read, by anybody, on any topic.”

Bernstein says there were only about 25 men there to hear the rabbi’s speech. The picture of the group supports that. But unknown to Gittelsohn, it was later reported, three of the Protestant chaplains were so disgusted with the situation that they joined the Jewish ceremony rather than their own. One of them reportedly borrowed the speech and made thousands of copies of it and distributed them to men in the regiment who were touched by the message and mailed copies home to their families.

Despite taking the moral high road and all the praise for his eulogy soon afterward, Gittelsohn said the situation was hurtful and later wrote an article titled “Brothers All?” published in *The Reconstructionist* in 1947. He described the hurt in the article and added

two handwritten works in brackets to the original typewritten draft that read:

“I do not remember anything in my life that made me so painfully heartsick. We have just come through nearly five weeks of miserable hell. Some of us [chaplains] had tried to serve men of all faiths and of no faith, without making denominations or affiliation a prerequisite for help. Protestants, Catholics and Jews had lived together, fought together, died together, and now lay buried together. But we the living could not unite to pray together! My chief consolation at the moment was that another Jew besides myself [Jesus] would have been unacceptable as dedicator of the cemetery—even though these very men professed to teach in his name!”

Others were more angry than hurt or heartsick about what had happened. Reportedly because of his anger, Cuthriell had eliminated the combined religious memorial service. Sam Bernstein was angry at 19 years old and was still angry at 89 when I spoke to him about it a couple of years ago, hoping that there would eventually be a full disclosure of the prejudiced attitudes that prevented Gittelsohn from delivering the eulogy at the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery dedication.

All of this filtered through my mind as I finished the book and contemplated the “Reunion of Honor” on Iwo Jima on March 21, 2015, that would have Americans and Japanese coming together in friendship to commemorate the horrific battle that cost the lives of 6,821 Americans, more than 19,000 wounded and the lives of nearly 22,000 Japanese, with only 216 taken prisoner by the end of the 36-day battle.

Many Marines hated the Japanese, as John Coltrane (L-4-13), 93, of Siler City, NC, told a Los Angeles Times reporter he did for 40 years. “I wouldn’t even buy anything made in Japan. Now I drive a Honda.”

In speech after speech at the “Reunion of Honor,” dignitaries from both sides touted the friendship of the United States and Japan. The hatred seems gone from so many on both sides. I couldn’t help but believe that Rabbi Gittelsohn would be quite happy that the hate and anger has turned to peace and friendship for two nations who work together, setting an example of how former enemies can forgive and move forward in peace.

Wouldn’t it be great if we could all embrace peace and let go of anger and hatred while working together for a better world? Holding onto such anger and hatred won’t make things better. Letting go lifts a burden and leaves us better people.

Recap of Reunion of Honor ... and a proposal on Mt. Suribachi

By Kathy Painton

The Fifth Marine Division was well represented with 11 of the approximately 50 veterans who attended the March 21 Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima. For most of the veterans, it was their first time back to the island, and many were joined by family members.

This 70th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima was the fourth time I have traveled to the island to make a special connection with my father, Pfc. George Addison Dunn (F-2-28), who was KIA on Feb. 19, 1945.

This year, my son, Craig; his girlfriend, Ana Mae Lytle; my cousin, Maureen Thomas; and her two sons, Luke and Adam, made the trip with me. Maureen's father, Pfc. William (Bill) Sayer (F-2-28), was my father's best friend, and he married my mother's sister. Unfortunately, Bill died in 1959 when Maureen was just 5 years old, so she does not remember him. This was an opportunity for Maureen and her family to honor his memory.

In 2012, Craig accompanied me on my first trip to Iwo Jima for the Reunion of Honor Ceremony. It was an emotional experience for both of us to walk on Green Beach, where his grandfather lost his life, and to climb Mt. Suribachi to complete the mission to which his grandfather's company had been assigned.

This year was an emotional experience, too, but for a different reason. Craig proposed to his girlfriend, Ana Mae Lytle, on top of Mt. Suribachi. Craig said he chose that location because he wanted to



FMDA Vice President Kathy Painton, right, with her son, Craig, and his fiancé, Ana Mae Lytle. The couple became engaged atop Mt. Suribachi. (Photo by Ray Elliott)

include his grandfather in this very joyous occasion. Needless to say, I am thrilled with his choices and can hardly wait to officially call Ana, my daughter-in-law.

As always, I looked forward to seeing Yoshiko Abe and Naoka Tomiko at the Reunion of Honor Ceremony. Yoshiko's father and Naoka's uncle were also KIA on Iwo Jima, and spending a few moments with them is important to me because we share the same feelings of loss. After the ceremony, we jointly placed a wreath at the Peace Monument in memory of all the men who gave their lives in battle on Iwo Jima.

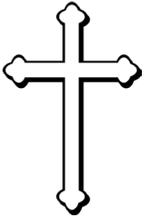
Before boarding the shuttle bus back to the airport, my cousin's son, Luke, an ordained minister, officiated as we spread the ashes of George Peabody, a recently deceased Iwo Jima veteran, on Yellow Beach, where the 3rd Division landed. It was a privilege to grant his request to have some of his ashes brought back to Iwo Jima. I think he would be pleased to know

that RADM Babette Bolivar and two active-duty Marines joined us for this ceremony.

This joint 70th Anniversary Commemoration to honor the men from both Japan and the United States who made the supreme sacrifice in this battle is a wonderful way to remember that peace between our two countries came at a horrific price.

I admire Craig for the love and respect he has shown toward his grandfather. He has attended the Fifth Marine Division Association reunions and the Iwo Jima Association of America symposia in Washington, D.C., and the Camp Pendleton Ceremony for the past several years.

Craig has an excellent Facebook group dedicated to sharing information about the men who fought on Iwo Jima during WWII. It is a closed group, so if you are interested in joining the group, please contact me (kathypainton@hotmail.com), and I will forward your request onto him.



Dear God, Thanks for the Memories

By Billy Joe Cawthron (B-1-27)

I joined the Fifth Division at Camp Pendleton (CP). We lived in a barracks. For the first time, I had a roof over my head, and it would not happen again until the occupation in Japan. Life at CP was good. The food was good. We had a PX, movie house and sports fields. And if you could stay off the gunnery sergeant's "Screw up" list, there was liberty.

One strange thing about liberty...if we had a 24- or 48- or 72-hour liberty, when we arrived back at camp on Monday, there was a field exercise for the same number of hours. For those who had drunk and "lived it up," the field exercises were devastating.

The gunnery sergeant warned us not to get used to easy living because it wasn't going to last. And he was right. Suddenly we found ourselves saying goodbye to California. But God was good. We were going to Hawaii—the land of white sand beaches, palm trees, and, oh yes, grass skirts. In just six days we were at Hilo. We boarded a train ... well, it *was* a train, but just flat cars ... and rolled through beautiful country—valleys and mountains. Suddenly I realized that we were going higher and higher, and I had never heard of white sand or palm trees up in the mountains.

We arrived at Camp Tarawa—no palm trees, but a lot of cactus. No white sand, but a lot of volcanic ash. And back into tents. We were in the middle of Parker Ranch, the second-largest cattle ranch in the USA. Beef was not rationed on the Big Island, but *we* had mutton all the way from Australia, and something they called Spam. I'm not sure where it came from, but I'm sure they were glad to be rid of it!

Training was stepped up. Much live ammunition. We were in the field day and night. The days were hot and dusty; the nights were cold and wet. And don't forget the cold showers. And I mean *cold*! But again, Gunnery Sergeant warned us not to get used to the soft living. It wasn't going to last!

All too soon, we were aboard ship, headed for a little spot in the ocean—Iwo Jima. Life aboard an APA ... how can you describe it? Bunks were stacked seven-high. Little air-conditioning. Shoulder-to-shoulder Marines. Not even enough room to exercise. I'm

convinced life aboard an APA was to make us happy to disembark, regardless of what might lie ahead of us.

We arrived at Saipan and transferred to LSTs for the trip to Iwo Jima. At least we had room; we slept on the deck, topside. And yes, it rained. We spent our time checking our gear, playing pranks on each other, and in some ways, having a good time. We knew we were headed into combat, but after all, this is what we had been training for. And yes, expecting and looking forward to it.

Finally, on Feb. 19, 1945, we awoke early—about 2 a.m.—not by reveille, but by the big guns of the Navy. It looked like the Navy was having a lot of fun. As daylight came, we could see what appeared to be the island of Iwo, covered in smoke and dust. We had our breakfast of steak and eggs—our usual D-Day breakfast. But our steak and eggs came between two pieces of bread—a sandwich.

Most of us were very quiet. We checked our gear, drew live ammunition, and yes, many of us prayed. At 6 a.m. we went below into our landing craft. At 0900 we hit the beach, and I fully understood what Gunnery Sergeant had been telling us. Even though we were well trained and expected to face many obstacles, we had no idea what combat was really like. Gunnery Sergeant and many, many more did not make it off the beach.

The next days changed my life. I saw men do the impossible. I saw courage, determination, and loyalty repeated many times. Day in and day out we moved forward, knowing every morning that many would never see the sun go down. Yet, when the order came to move out, nobody hesitated.

Perhaps you are wondering how I could thank God for these memories. I learned what dedication really is. I also learned what makes Marines the best fighting men there are. Yes, we were trained. We were well equipped. But each man had something that could not be issued—a heart of pride and a desire to give our very best.

I will never forget them. And perhaps I am here today because of what *they* did. My prayer is that the whole nation would understand that all we have, all we enjoy, was bought and paid for by men of courage.

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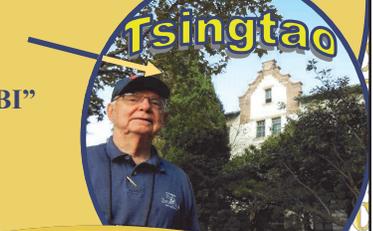
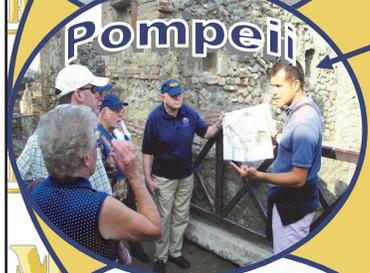
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Korean War Vets: 2016 Subsidized

A replacement officer's Iwo story

Editor's note: The following is a presentation Craig Leman (H-3-26—March 12, 1923-July 13, 2014) gave at the 68th Anniversary IJAA Symposium in Arlington, Va., in February 2013. It was submitted by his daughter Valerie Leman and widow Nancy Leman.

I joined the Marine Corps in World War II because I thought it was the best and wound up as tentmate of a Marine who went on to a 30-year military career.

The casualty rate among NCOs and junior lieutenants, high in the Solomons, Tarawa and the Marshalls, continued to be high in the Marianas, outrunning the full-capacity production from Quantico. The Marine Corps diverted 430 officer candidates to a Special Officer Candidate School for rifle platoon leaders at Camp Lejuene, the only one of its kind.

I was one of 373 who survived the rigorous field training supervised by veterans of earlier Pacific campaigns. Roughly half went to Iwo Jima, half to Okinawa. Forty-eight were killed and 153 wounded.

Some joined and trained with assault units before they landed; others joined shore parties and were replacements for officer casualties. I was in the latter group. I landed on Iwo Jima on Red Beach 2 as leader of a shore party platoon at H+2 on D-Day and spent the first days on the beach, unloading landing craft and stowing gear and supplies.

On D+10, ten of us lieutenants were sent to exhausted rifle companies as replacement officers. In the next two weeks, all were either killed or wounded. I was assigned to H-3-26 to replace 1stLt Angelo Cona, a former paramarine and Solomons veteran who had been KIA while assaulting a machine-gun nest. Of his platoon's original 13 NCOs, only Cpl Nick Hernandez remained.

Also a former paramarine, fire-team leader and acting platoon leader, Nick introduced me to our men who were in reserve after three days on the front line. The original complement had dwindled from 45 to 22 privates and Pfc's. I spent the next two hours talking to Nick, his fire team leaders, and as many men as I could.

They were open, friendly and competent. I bonded with them immediately. And I will never forget Nick's best friend, Ben Parra, with whom I spent only eight

hours of our whole lives. We were moved back to the front lines that afternoon and saw each other often during the ensuing firefight. As we were digging in for the night, Ben was shot through the arm, evacuated, and I never saw him again.

While I was getting to know the men in our platoon, the company that had just passed through our lines was a few yards in front of our line of foxholes. Led by Al Garcia, one of my SOCS friends, they were advancing under fire from the entrenched Japanese. Al was working hard, up front, finding cover for his men and bringing them forward under fire.

Al was killed later that day. My platoon was ordered back to the front line to plug a gap that had developed. We were still in the front lines five days later, all eight of us, out of the 22 I had joined. Nick was KIA in a firefight just before I was hit. H Company's 1st Sgt Paul Carpenter, who replaced me, was KIA several days later. Three of the original platoon, plus a few green replacements, managed to finish the campaign.

I was fortunate that the men in my unit were solid, well-trained individuals who were friendly and helpful. I was blessed that they knew and executed their jobs without fail. They must have sensed that I was young and green. I let them know I admired their skills and worked hard to do my job well and stay up front.

Eugene Sledge, author of the superb book, *With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa*, quit the V-12 officer candidate program in 1943 in order to shorten the delay in his getting into combat. His reward was front-line duty as a mortar-man in both these long battles. Here is Sledge's slant on our subject:

"During the course of the long fighting on Okinawa, unlike at Peleliu, we got numerous replacement lieutenants. They were wounded or killed with such regularity that we rarely knew anything about them other than a code name and saw them on their feet only once or twice. We expected heavy losses of enlisted men in combat, but our officers got hit so soon and so often that it seemed to me the position of second lieutenant in a rifle company had been made obsolete by modern warfare."

Six of my classmates (one KIA and four WIA) were replacements in Sledge's unit on Okinawa.



A Sense of Humor Helps Sometimes

Kenneth A. Runkle, HQ-2-26, (deceased 7 Aug. 2014) had shared this photo several years ago. He said it was probably taken up on the north end of Iwo Jima and is a photo of Sgt Chuck Hiddema, Communications Section, HQ-2-26.



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Spirited memories of Japan Occupation

By Mike Dietz

Some time ago, there was news that the Jim Beam distillery had been purchased by the Japanese Distillery "Old Suntory" at a price of about \$3 billion.

Having been in Japan with the occupation troops after World War II, I remembered the name, Suntory. I went through my archives and came up with what I think may be of interest to a lot of veterans who served in the same area.

The Fifth Marine Division, which I was a part of, landed in Sasabo, Kyushu, Japan, on Aug. 23, 1945. We were promptly split up into battalion-sized units and dispersed over the southernmost island of Kyushu. The unit I was with was sent to Fukuoka, a fair-sized city that had been about 75 percent destroyed by a firebombing raid in June 1944.

Much of what we did was to patrol areas where arms and ammunition had been stored and assisted in the disposal of such material. During that time, we occasionally came across stores of beer, sake and whiskey, which is the main point of this writing.

While most of us were more content to liberate the caches of beer, not many drank the sake or whiskey. We had been warned that those items had been poisoned purposely and had been left in caves. During the war, some of our people did, however, drink the whiskey and some did crazy things or became violently ill.

On Nov. 10, 1945, our unit was relieved by the 27th Army Division (New York National Guard) and the 32nd Army Division (Wisconsin National Guard). Some of the older men of the Fifth Marine Division were returned stateside for discharge. The remainder of the Fifth Division was sent to the Second Marine Division in Nagasaki and other points south on Kyushu.

As of Nov. 30, 1945, I was assigned to Signal Company, Headquarters Battalion, Second Marine Division, as a radio operator. I remained in that capacity and traversed most of southern Kyushu from Kumamoto to Kanoya, and Kagoshima on the southern coast of that island.

About the end of February 1946, I received a letter from my mother, which contained a newspaper article, dated Feb. 23, 1946. Since my parents lived in Fond du Lac, Wis., at that time, I assumed the article was from the Fond du Lac Commonwealth Reporter, although the news article apparently originated from the Chicago Tribune. A copy of that article is as follows:



For some time prior to receiving this article, we had been receiving messages by radio that Army personnel had been suspected of being poisoned in the Fukuoka area and requests were made for records of any of our people suffering such illnesses.

As I stated earlier, it was common practice during the war in the Pacific to leave poisoned sake (Japanese wine) where unsuspecting troops would find it and suffer ill effects or die. By the time the Army discovered what the problem was, it was unfortunately too late for a number of people.

About the same time, it had been discovered that Kagoshima had been one of the major areas that the Kamikaze pilots departed from to attack our fleet. It was also the place where the Japanese had stored very large quantities of torpedoes and specially designed boats fitted to carry these weapons in suicide attacks against the fleet in the upcoming invasion of the home islands, prior to the ending of the war. These were not in any way similar to our PT boats, as the pilots of these boats actually intended to ride these torpedoes and crash into their enemy's vessels.

Fortunately, the war ended before these weapons were put to use. Considering the effect the Kamikaze pilots had on our invasion felt at Okinawa, these Suicide Squadrons would have had a devastating effect on the invasion of the Japanese home islands.

Fifth Marine Division Association Business Meeting Minutes

Sept. 13, 2014

President John Butler called the meeting to order. There were 43 people present. Vice President Kathy Painton led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made.

Secretary's Report: The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting was waived because they had already been published in *The Spearhead News*. Bonnie Arnold-Haynes motioned; John Scatchell seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Warren Musch distributed copies of his report to those present. He indicated that the first report came from last year's account through Oct. 17. The second one is from Oct. 17 to the end of 2013, and the third one is from Jan. 1, 2014, up until one week ago prior to this meeting. He attempted to itemize where possible and offered to answer questions. The main observation he made is that at the time, the Association had spent almost \$16,000. Also, postage and printing for the newsletter were just paid at approximately \$900. That said, the current balance on hand was down to about \$39,300.

Officer Elections: At the trustees meeting earlier, the group agreed to change the old procedure of the president doing the reunion. President Butler said the Iwo veteran community is getting smaller, and it's more difficult for them to attend the events. Also, the organization is trying to change and adapt. They determined to maintain more continuity. New officers proposed for the coming year are John Butler, president, and Kathy Painton, vice president.

A question came from the floor about following the procedure for the election of officers. President Butler called for an election. John Butler was nominated for president—motioned by Hal Campbell, seconded by Jimmie Hyde-Watson. Kathy Painton was nominated for vice president—motioned by Jimmie Hyde-Watson, seconded by Penny Pauletto. Both were elected unanimously.

As per the bylaws, President Butler then appointed Doug Meny as the treasurer. Butler then said an FMDA account was opened with Wells Fargo in Florida to deal with reunion funds. Doug will be doing the financial statements. Butler re-appointed Ray Elliott as secretary and editor of *The Spearhead News* (published twice a year). Elliott encouraged people to opt for receiving the newsletter by email to save on postage. The returns on bad addresses are costly to the Association.

Non-Profit Status: Meny is looking into changing the status of the Association from a 501(c)4 status to 501(c)3 for tax-deductible purposes. It also makes it easier to raise funds and accept gifts from donors and vendors so they can claim a tax benefit. The current classification, according to the IRS, is more for a social club. It is not a difficult process, Meny said, but he is looking into the tax and legal implications as due diligence. There is currently no budget implication involved in this pursuit.

2015 Reunion: President John Butler proposed having assistance from John Powell of Military Historical Tours, who has helpful planning contacts. The reunion would be shorter in duration with a few key events, a meeting and a banquet. Down the road, it may be possible to partner with other organizations. For 2015, President Butler proposed Monroe Ozment to be the reunion chairman and to have the reunion in Norfolk/Virginia Beach, with support from Powell. Discussion continued. Penny Pauletto motioned, Kathy Painton seconded. Passed unanimously.

General Discussion of Association's Future: President Butler reported that Ivan Hammond would be leaving the Board of Trustees, and Bonnie Arnold-Haynes would be coming in as a new trustee. Bill Behana will step down and Bruce Hammond will become the new trustee. Bob Mueller and Warren Musch will remain, as will Penny Pauletto. Butler said he believed the goal of the Association should be to preserve the legacy of the Fifth Marine Division and credited the Bar on the Beach sculpture for helping to advance that mission. He then mentioned Kathy Painton's work in Hawaii for a Fifth Marine Division museum. It may be necessary to work with the Second Division, too, since it trained there, as well. When that becomes a reality, there could either be a reunion on Hawaii or a large gathering for the unveiling.

Museum at Camp Tarawa: Kathy Painton described the establishment and history of Camp Tarawa on Hawaii. It was home to the Fifth Marine Division prior to and after Iwo Jima. The slop chute building that remained on the Parker Ranch lands was no longer salvageable, and was to be torn down. The foundation is sound, however. Parker Ranch has indicated it will sell the 1.2 acres of land for fair market value. Painton has support from the community and local schools, but the Parker Ranch representatives see it as prime development land and have requested a list of trustees and a marketing plan. A question was posed whether the Camp Tarawa Foundation would want to put its efforts through the Fifth Marine Division, and whether the Second Marine Division would have an interest in helping. More discussion continued. Motion to support the project and Painton's continued investigation/advocacy by John Huffhines, seconded by Ralph Simoneau. Passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Ray Elliott, Secretary

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ANNUAL MEMBERS

ADAMS, Inda W. - Madison, TN

BUNDY-MAYBURY, Dixie Lee - Murphy, NC

COOK, John - Kemah, TX

DOUGLASS, Col Robert C. (C-1-26) VN - Fremont, CA

HANSON, Chris - Champaign, IL

RIGG, Justin - Dallas, TX

LIFE MEMBERS

HARRIS, Barbara Hansen - Littleton, CO

HERZFELD, Ron (HQ-2-26) - Austin, TX

LECHNIAK, Anthony (A-5TH ENGR) - Oakland, NJ

LEMAN, Valerie - San Diego, CA

PIPER, Col Earl S. USMC (Ret.) - Greenville, SC

WILLIAMS, Jeffrey S. USAF - St. Paul, MN

WILLIAMS, Mansfield "Smokey" (B-PION) -
Hobe Sound, FL

MEMORIAL MEMBERS

EIB, Betty - Indianapolis, IN

MARTIN, Rita - Aiken, SC

MURPHY, Clare - Staten Island, NY

STEFFES, Ruth A. - Prescott, AZ

WRIGHT, Eileen B. - Pittsburgh, PA

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Financial Statements

As Of April 30, 2015

(Cash Basis)

	2015 YTD	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Statement of Income and Expense:						
INCOME						
Dues & General Fund	2,325	3,534	2,343	2,600	3,709	6,096
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	209
Advertising	-	-	170	170	-	-
Reunion	-	16,317	7,099	-	1,782	5,403
Operating Income	<u>2,325</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>2,325</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)	633	6,059	8,868	9,537	10,645	4,764
Administrative Services	3,000	11,000	8,625	6,682	9,314	14,051
Office & Other Expenses	141	1,744	558	587	856	1,429
Reunion	600	15,218	8,801	2,000	-	-
Grants Paid - Camp Tarawa Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Grants Paid - Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund	-	-	-	-	-	25,000
Total Operating Expenses	<u>4,375</u>	<u>34,021</u>	<u>26,853</u>	<u>18,806</u>	<u>20,815</u>	<u>50,480</u>
TOTAL NET INCOME/(LOSS)	<u>(2,050)</u>	<u>(14,170)</u>	<u>(13,475)</u>	<u>(16,036)</u>	<u>(7,563)</u>	<u>(38,772)</u>
ASSETS (End of Calendar Year)						
Bank Account	\$ 39,990	\$ 42,040	\$ 56,210	\$ 33,085	\$ 49,121	\$ 56,684
Investment - Gold (at cost)	-	-	-	36,600	36,600	36,600
Total Assets	<u>39,990</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>\$ 39,990</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.

5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION
SEPTEMBER 10 – 13, 2015
HOLIDAY INN – VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:30am – 10:30am Breakfast in Hotel Restaurant (*for two, included in your room rate*)
2:00pm – 6:00pm **Reunion Registration Open**
6:00pm – 10:00pm Hospitality Room Open and Entertainment
Hospitality Room to be open throughout the reunion.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

6:30am – 10:30am Breakfast in Hotel Restaurant (*for two, included in your room rate*)
8:00am – 8:30am **Reunion Registration Open**
9:00am – 2:00pm MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM TOUR (description follows)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:00am – 11:00am Breakfast in Hotel Restaurant (*for two, included in your room rate*)
9:00am – 11:00am Business Meeting
11:00am – 12:00pm Memorial Service
6:00pm – 7:00pm Cash Bar
7:00pm – 10:00pm Banquet

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

7:00am – 11:00am Breakfast in Hotel Restaurant (*for two, included in your room rate*)
Farewell and Departures



TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM TOUR – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The Military Aviation Museum is home to one of the largest collections of vintage World War I and World War II era fighters, bombers, trainers, and seaplanes. The main museum covers over 60,000 square feet and has recently expanded to three hangars housing a large collection of aircraft. We will take a tour of the museum and enjoy lunch there with entertainment. Learn more about the museum here: www.militaryaviationmuseum.org

9:00am board bus, 2:00pm back at the hotel
\$48/Person includes transportation, admission, lunch, entertainment, and a flight demonstration (weather permitting).

Please plan to be at the bus boarding area (in front of the hotel) at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

"Like" Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArmedForcesReunions

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

OPTIONAL EXCURSION POSSIBILITY

A possibility exists that an excursion to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, may be arranged before or after the Reunion. Anyone having an interest in the possibility of joining such a tour to view Semper Fi Park and the BAR on the Beach statue, please call or email Monroe Ozment at (757) 340-8784 or monroezment25@hotmail.com.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT FOR FIFTH MARINE DIVISION REUNION JOURNAL

- To be published in the Fifth Marine Division 66th Annual Reunion Journal, Sept. 10-13, 2015
- Distributed to all members of the Association & solicitors.
- Advertiser agrees to make immediate payment by check or money order, payable to Fifth Marine Division Association. with submission of the ad and understands that the Association will pay no commission to any agency or individual.

Name (Firm/Individual) _____ Co _____ Bn _____ Regt _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Phone Home _____ Cell _____

All ads are black and white **ADVERTISING DEADLINE: July 15, 2015**

Advertising Rates

Specifications (trim size 8.5" wide x 11" deep)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Page | \$250 | Full Page Ad : 7" wide x 10" deep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Half Page | \$150 | Half Page Ad: 7" wide x 4 7/8" deep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter Pg | \$100 | Quarter Page: 3 3/8" wide x 4 7/8" deep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eighth Pg | \$50 | Eighth Page: 3 3/8" wide x 2 3/8" deep |

I am submitting:

- Camera-ready ad (must be actual size and ready to scan with **NO** changes.) Any ad submitted as camera-ready but proves not to be camera-ready will be adjusted at the discretion of the publisher to fit the size ordered.
- Suggested layout, but please alter as needed to fit space.
- What I want my ad to say. Please use your creativity to make it look good.
- Photo(s) # _____ (prefer black and white photos: please put name and address on a label on the back of each photo.)
- Other artwork _____
- Other _____

Mail checks and ad form to:

Fifth Marine Division Association, P.O. Box 16004, Tampa, FL 33687

Photos and text can also be sent electronically to kbutler813@verizon.net

5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/5thmarine2015 (3% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 10, 2015. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: 5th MARINE

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check # _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/10/15	Price Per	# of People	Total
TOURS			
FRIDAY: MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM TOUR	\$48		\$
BANQUET			
SATURDAY: BANQUET <i>(Please select your entrée)</i>			\$
Pan Seared Atlantic Salmon	\$36		\$
Sliced Sirloin of Beef	\$36		\$
Chicken Boursin	\$36		\$
MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE			
Covers hospitality room and various reunion expenses	\$40		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ

FIRST _____ LAST _____

5TH MARINE DIV. VETERAN? YES NO **CIRCLE ONE:** IWO JIMA VIETNAM UNIT (ex. E-2-28) _____

FAMILY MEMBER OF 5TH MARINE DIV. VETERAN? YES NO OTHER _____

CONNECTION TO ASSOCIATION _____ UNIT OF CONNECTION _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____ EMAIL _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____
(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY). YES NO

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES NO ARE YOU FLYING? DRIVING? RV?

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays)**. Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.afr-reg.com/5thmarine2015



Virginia Beach Norfolk Hotel & Convention Center

5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Phone (757) 499-4400 www.HIVaBeachNorfolk.com



Just seven miles from downtown Norfolk and five miles from Norfolk Airport, the Hotel is conveniently located off the I-264 Virginia Beach-Norfolk Expressway. Virginia Beach Oceanfront is 13 miles east of the hotel.

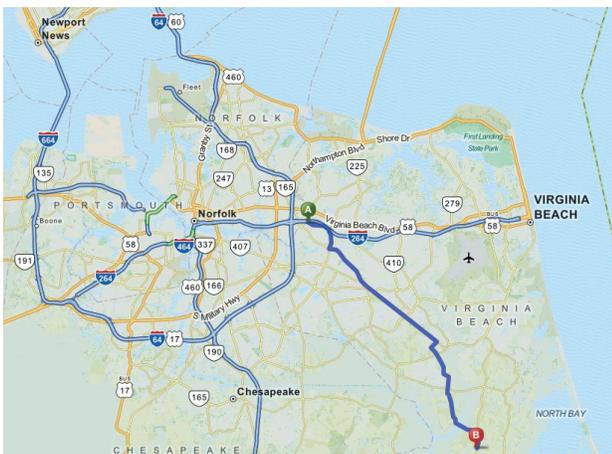
MacArthur Center, upscale shopping mall in downtown Norfolk, is accessible via Light Rail.

Full-service restaurant and two lounges. Three meals a day are served at Ashley's Bistro. Also, enjoy the Xpresso Café and the Blu lobby bar.

* Free Airport Shuttle * Free Parking * Outdoor Pool * 24-hour Fitness Center * Free WiFi * 24-Hr Business Center with complimentary copying & faxing * Laundry Facilities * Mini-Refrig * Microwave, coffee maker, and hairdryer in all rooms

* Free shuttle to The Tide Light Rail System Terminal with service directly into Norfolk

HERE TO SERVE THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY!



FOR RESERVATIONS

Book online or call: 1-800-860-7109

Use Promo Code: FMD

Rates: Sept 10-13, **\$99 per night** This rate will be available three days prior and after reunion. No minimum stay.

Rates include breakfast (two per room, per night) and are exclusive of 14% state & \$1 occupancy tax

The Military Aviation Museum, the site of Friday's tour and lunch, is located less than 20 miles south of the Convention Center – a 30-minute drive down US 165. Norfolk International Airport (ORF) is approximately 25 miles away from MAM.

A = Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, 5655 Greenwich Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462

B = Military Aviation Museum, 1341 Princess Anne Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23457

