



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION
of the
5TH MARINE
DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

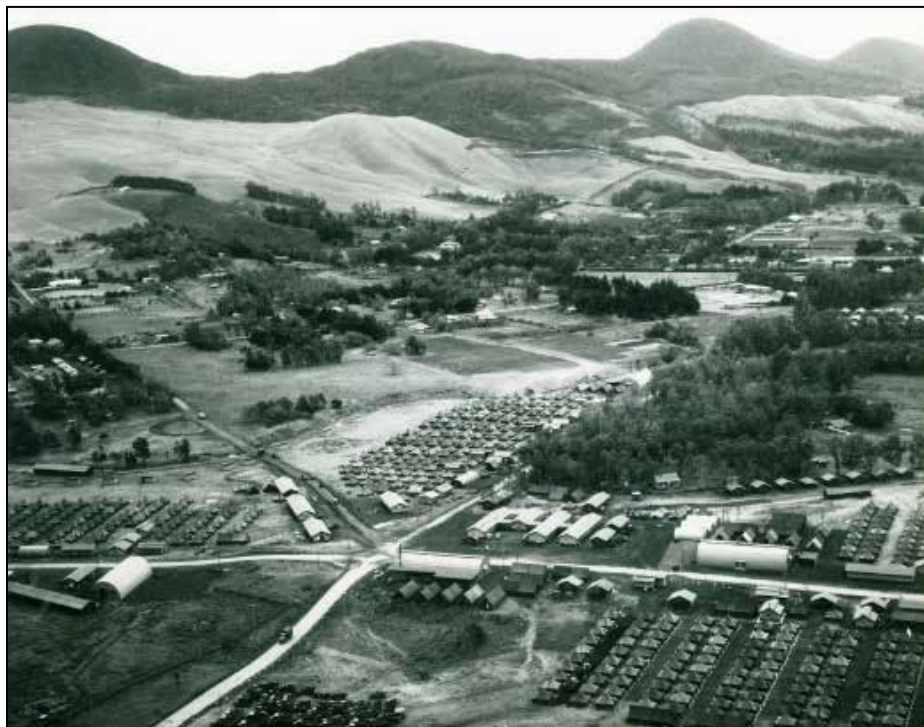
68TH ANNUAL REUNION - KAILUA/KONA, HAWAI'I
OCTOBER 17-24, 2017
COURTYARD/MARRIOTT KING KAMEHAMEHA'S KONA BEACH HOTEL

Camp Tarawa revisited

By Fred Greguras

Kamuela (Waimea) is located at the intersection of the Mamalahoa Highway (Highway 190) and Kawaihae Road (Highway 19) in the northwest part of the island of Hawai'i. In 1943, it was a small town of about 400 called Kamuela, and its residents were almost totally dependent on the Parker Ranch for their livelihood.

Camp Tarawa was located on Parker Ranch property in and around Kamuela from 1943-1945. The camp was between the volcanic peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. The Marines and Seabees were at four locations: the camp main side at Kamuela; the artillery camp at Pohakuloa; the amtrac camp at Hapuna Beach and the division rear at the port facilities in Hilo. Most unit headquarters, tent camps, mess halls, clubs, recreation facilities, warehouses, etc. were located at main side. There were large outlying training areas surrounding the camps for small arms practice, an artillery range, amphibious training and other purposes.



Main Side, Camp Tarawa, 1944-45

The Second Marine Division was sent to Camp Tarawa in December 1943 after the World War II battle of Tarawa to recuperate, get replacements and train for the Saipan and Tinian campaigns in the Pacific. The

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THE SPEARHEAD NEWS

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

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NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Fifth Marine Division Association Vice President Kathy Painton is planning a memorable reunion on the Big Island of Hawai'i where the division trained for the Iwo Jima Campaign and returned after that bloody battle to prepare for the invasion of Japan.

Kathy has an incredible week set up from Oct. 17-24 for the 68th annual reunion with information about everything from the hotel at the Courtyard Marriott/King Kamehameha's Kona Beach hotel in Kona to information about air transportation, hospitality room, tour descriptions—she has three of them—and an outstanding schedule of events. The registration form and the schedule are included in this issue of *Spearhead*.

She has lived on the Big Island since 2003, shortly after retiring in 2002 from a long teaching career in Southern California. Since moving to the Big Island where her father, Pfc George A. Dunn, F-2-28, who was killed during the landing on Iwo Jima, trained with the division, Kathy has been involved with the Camp Tarawa Foundation and the Camp Tarawa Marine Corps League Detachment #1251, the history of the division, speaking and providing a "Boots on the Ground" Tour of Camp Tarawa sites.

After the battle of Tarawa, the Second Marine Division went to the Big Island to reorganize and train for the battles to come. It was then that the campsite at Parker Ranch was named Camp Tarawa.

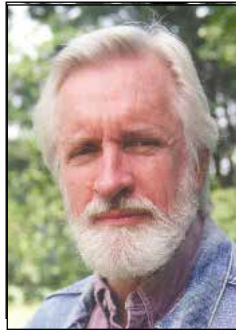
Since becoming vice president of the Association—the first female to serve in that capacity since the Association was formed in 1949—Kathy has been instrumental in gathering memorabilia from members of the division and legacy members to set up the Camp Tarawa Museum for the Fifth Marine Division Association. Material may be sent to FMDA Vice President Kathleen Painton, 62-3928 Loli'i Place H-1, Kamuela, HI 96743.

Efforts are also being made to provide airfare and expenses for the Iwo Jima veterans who will be returning to the island. Contributions are being accepted by the FMDA and a Go Fund Me Campaign (Help our Iwo Jima veterans) has been established. Go to <https://www.gofundme.com/help-our-iwo-jima-veterans> to donate. One individual has already donated 500,000 frequent flyer miles for the effort. Contributions may also be sent to Kathy at her address above.

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THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



Preserving the flag raising image at no cost

By the end of the 36-day battle for Iwo Jima, 6,821 Americans died, nearly 6,000 of them Marines among the 70,000 who landed on the island. Another 19,000 men were wounded and about 21,000 of the 22,000 Japanese defending the island were killed. *The Spearhead, The World War II History of the 5th Marine Division*, published in 1950, lists all Marines killed and wounded during the campaign.

And, when notified, *Spearhead News* lists those who have since passed away in the Final Muster column. While the ranks of Iwo Jima veterans are thinning, there is no count of how many remain alive today. But the Joe Rosenthal photo of the flag raising and the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington Cemetery perpetuate their legacy.

As a young boy, I first became aware of Iwo Jima through a family friend, Oral C. "Ben" Correll, who served with A-1-28 and with whom I shared many conversations with until he died of a heart attack when he was only 60 years old. He was wounded on D+3, and I'll never forget him telling me about seeing "Old Glory" flying on Mount Suribachi.

"As I was being winched over the side of a hospital ship the next morning," he told me one day when I visited him when I was home on leave from the Marine Corps, "I turned on my side and looked back at the Rock. It was just before noon. And there on the top of Suribachi, a bleak sky in the background with the sun's rays shining on it just a little, was one of the most beautiful sites I'll ever see: The flag stood out in Technicolor against the drab background.

"It had to be the second flag," he said, his eyes watering as he spoke. "But it was a real tearjerker. I'll never see anything like it again."

The last time I visited him was the day before he died. We didn't talk long. He thanked me for coming, and his last words to me were, "We won't have much

more time to talk about the Corps."

I was honored to help carry him to his final resting place a few days later and wrote about him in the very first *Spearhead* I edited in the Spring 2008 issue (www.talespress.com/Spearhead_Spring2008.pdf) after former editor Bert Clayton persuaded me to take over from him.

Since then I've had the honor of talking to many Iwo Jima veterans, visiting the island several times, attending reunions from coast to coast and visiting the Big Island of Hawai'i where the Fifth Division trained for the Iwo Jima campaign. No conversations I've had in my lifetime compare with the ones I've had about those experiences.

Some of the stories center around seeing the flags raised or flying on Mount Suribachi. I don't recall if cameraman Norman Hatch, who just passed away at 96 on April 22, saw the flag go up, but his story about the flag raising is one of my favorites and has been widely reported in clearing away the controversy and played a part in getting the Associated Press to allow the image of Rosenthal's famous photo to be reproduced at no cost.

By the time Hatch left Iwo Jima with Bill Genaust's footage of the second flag raising after Genaust had been killed and Rosenthal's photo had become a worldwide sensation, Hatch accompanied Marine Corps Commandant Alexander "Archie" Vandegrift to a meeting with Alan J. Gould, the executive editor of AP, and Time-Life executives.

Hatch reportedly vouched for the photo's authenticity, and the commandant asked for permission to use the image in recruiting efforts. Accepting Hatch's word that the photo was authentic and wasn't posed as many had thought, Gould has been quoted as saying, "You can have two duplicate negatives and every print will cost you \$1."

Given the popularity of the photo and the many times it would be reproduced, the cost would be prohibitive. Hatch said there was "dead silence" in the room, and the commandant asked him what he thought.

Sgt Hatch replied that he had Genaust's film of the flag raising and it could be blown up to 8"x10" and a print made of it. He said some definition might be lost but the image would belong to the Marine Corps and payment wouldn't be necessary.

Taking Hatch at his word and not knowing that he hadn't seen the print at that point or that it had not even been processed, but that an alternate to Rosenthal's

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Sharing memories

My father, Jack Joseph Brosnan (B-1-27), fought in the battle of Iwo Jima. He was on the first wave onto the island and awarded the Purple Heart. Sadly, my father passed away Nov. 13, 2015.

[I've enclosed a few] photos: my father returning from the field hospital after being wounded; a photo with his buddies (shown above, with Brosnan second from right) and the only photo we have of my father in Marine dress blues.

— Jackie Brosnan
Reno, NV

Learning more about the Fifth's burial officer on Iwo

Dean Laubach contacted the Fifth Marine Division Association with questions about CWO John A. Daniels, the Fifth Division's burial officer on Iwo Jima. He cited a passage from Chuck Tatum's 2012 book, "Red Blood, Black Sand: Fighting Alongside John Basilone from Boot Camp to Iwo Jima," that describes when GySgt Basilone was killed on D-Day, and Daniels collected his remains and that of other C Company Marines killed in the same blast.

The passage reads:

I located Chief Warrant Officer John A. Daniels. By a strange twist of fate, CWO Daniels was the 5th Division's burial officer who undertook the awesome

task of collection and interment of some of the 6,800 of Iwo's heroic dead. One of the sad legion of fallen Marines he cared for was Gunnery Sergeant "Manila John" Basilone. Now in his eighties, CWO Daniels remembers D-Day on Iwo Jima and events that transpired on its black sands with pride and reverence. "At about 1200 hours, Major Amedao Rea, the executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, reported to the battalion command post [on the front lines] and said to me, 'Gunnery Sergeant Basilone is laying [sic] dead on the end of the first airstrip.'"

The CWO found Basilone at the south end of Motoyama One, where he had died of massive wounds, and immediately recognized his close friend. Ignoring intense mortar and shell fire, Daniels tenderly rescued Basilone's remains and those of other C Company Marines killed in the same blast. By late D-Day afternoon, Daniels and his men had collected ninety dead Marines. He would later create the cemetery for the 5th Marine Division. The furious battle ranging across Iwo and confusion on the beaches prevented him from burying anyone until D+2 (two days after Basilone's death). CWO Daniels noted to me, "John Basilone suffered fatal injuries from a mortar explosion or large shell fire." This assessment was confirmed by the official casualty report that stated tersely, "GSW."

Laubach asks if anyone remembers this event or has any contact information for CWO Daniels or his family. Laubach can be contacted at consolidatedcollectorww2@gmail.com.

Remembering to notify Spearhead of father's passing

I am writing to inform you of the death of my father, Francis "Spike" Donovan, B-1-26, on March 12, 2015.

While reading the latest issue, my mother realized we had not sent a notice for Final Muster. Over the years, Dad and Mom very much enjoyed reading *Spearhead* and attending a few of the reunions.

My dad did not talk a lot about his experiences during WWII, but we did know that he was a proud Marine and proud of those with whom he served. I think he would have appreciated, "Iwo Vet" by Stephen Lopardo in the most recent issue.

Thank you and the Association for all you do for our veterans.

— Kathleen Donovan
Quincy, MA



Sail-By Salute

These images are from July 1966, when the newly reactivated First Battalion, 26th Marines of the Fifth Marine Division conducted a ceremonial sail-by of Iwo Jima en route to Vietnam aboard three ships: USS Iwo Jima, USS Vancouver and USS Thomaston.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Continued from page 2

With Kathy and FMDA President John Butler, whose father was also killed on Iwo Jima, the plan is to keep the Association going to preserve and perpetuate the sacrifices and contributions that those who served in the division made for our freedom. With the help of legacy members whose relatives served in the Fifth Division during World War II, those veterans who served with the reactivated division in Vietnam, and other members who support the effort, that is possible.

But it takes members and funds. Many legacy members are staying with the Association while some are opting not to do so. We urge you to keep your membership current by paying the annual membership dues or joining as a lifetime member (both of which we have kept at the current rate for years) and to persuade others to join. Contributions may be made for the general fund or for the proposed museum by sending your donations to FMDA President John Butler, P.O. Box 16004, Tampa, FL 33687.

The location of the 2018 Reunion will be determined at the business meeting on the Big Island in October. Traditionally, the location has moved across the country. It has been suggested that the FMDA

partner with the West Coast Iwo Jima Committee for the February 2018 reunion, as the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) did this year (and was attended by many members of the FMDA), or join the IJAA meeting in Arlington, Va. Other suggested cities for the reunion include New Orleans, Dallas and Rapid City, S.D. Your input is welcome.

Finally, I receive emails and phone calls regularly from people asking about men who might have known their fathers, wondering whether someone is still alive, or having *Spearheads* returned because there was no forwarding address or the member had died—the latter costs the Association, so please give the post office your forwarding address and let me know by a phone call, an email or a letter when a member passes away.

To find people who are not FMDA members or when an issue is returned, I Google the member's name, city and state, followed by obituary. That turns up a member's death notice, if he/she has died. And I sometimes find a new address by searching the White Pages. To find the gravesite of a member, I turn to FindaGrave.com with the member's name, city and state. You can use it, too.

See you on the Big Island in October.

— Ray Elliott, Secretary

Return to Hawai'i Island— sign up for the FMDA reunion

Plans for the 68th FMDA Annual Reunion are progressing nicely. I think it will be a memorable experience for all who attend.

Leaders and businesses in the community are eagerly looking forward to the Fifth Marine Division's return to Hawai'i Island. The kupuna (people who remember associating with the Marines when they were during WWII) are excited to meet with you to "talk story" (Hawaiian for "chew the fat") about the good times at Camp Tarawa.

Several Kona area restaurants have generously agreed to provide meals or snacks for the hospitality room each day/night it is open so you won't need to eat out. Please notify me (808) 880-9880 ASAP if you are an Iwo veteran who needs financial assistance with airline reservations.

I hope you will all be able to attend the reunion. I have made every effort to keep reunion costs reasonable. Your local Marine Corps League detachments or other local veterans organizations may be willing to hold a fundraiser to help you with expenses.

See registration information on pages 25-26.

— Kathy Painton

Slovak documentary airs on flag raiser Strank

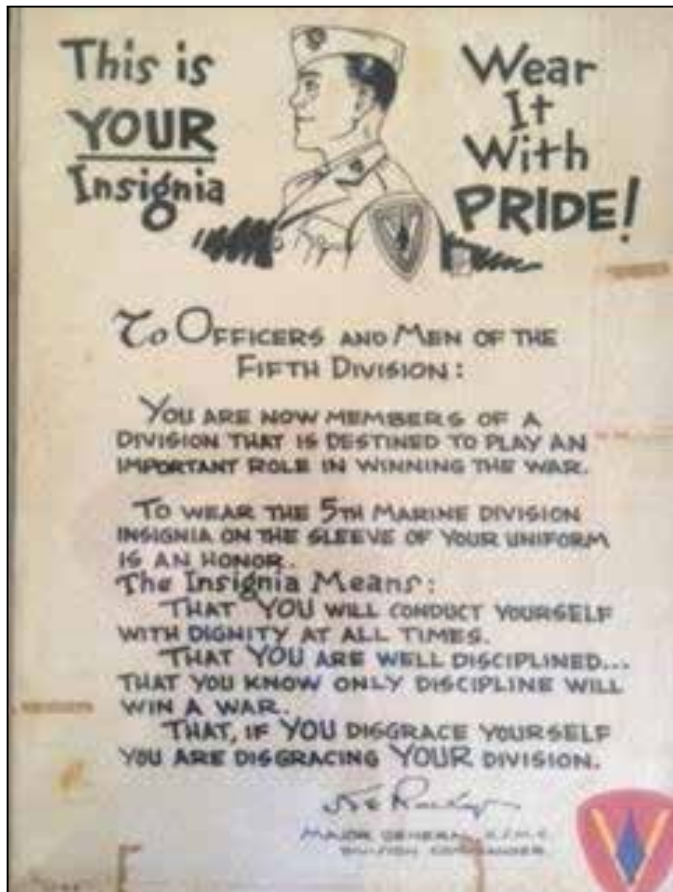
A documentary about Sgt Michael Strank, one of the second flag raisers who was later killed on Iwo Jima, recently aired on Slovak Public Television (RTVS).

"The Oath" tells the story of this Iwo Marine who was born in Czechoslovakia on Nov. 10, 1919.

Writer and director Dusan Hudec said plans are to produce an English version of the documentary in September 2017.

"Strank and his generation of young Marines could be an inspiration for us more than at any time before because they personalize men of integrity, honesty, fidelity and self-sacrifice," Hudec told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in May 2016.

The one-hour documentary was filmed in Slovakia, the U.S. and Iwo Jima, and features interviews with Strank's sister and the last surviving members of the Marine Raiders and Marine Corps who fought with him on Bougainville and Iwo Jima.



Camp Tarawa Museum project update

The Camp Tarawa Museum project recently assumed custodianship of the materials that Alice Clark has been collecting for the proposed museum since the early 1990s. Alice and her husband, Bee, were the guiding force behind the addition of the three black granite panels (in 1998) behind the symbolic Mt. Suribachi rock and bronze plaque dedicated in 1984 at the site of the main entrance to Camp Tarawa.

This treasure trove of materials includes posters, framed signed photos of both flag raisings, operations maps, Camp Tarawa photos from personal collections, oral histories and other memorabilia relating to Camp Tarawa.

I will have a table with of some of the artifacts that we have collected thus far on display in the hospitality room during the 68th Annual FMDA Reunion in October. These artifacts will be included in exhibits when the museum is completed.

— Kathy Painton,
Vice President

It was Marines vs. Saga City All Stars in 1945 Japan

By Walt O'Malley
E-2-27
Clinton, MA

Enclosed is the lineup of the baseball game that took place in 1945 in Saga, Kyushu, which the 2nd Bn, 27th occupied until, I believe, the end of November. At that time, the Fifth Division was relocated to the States and deactivated.

An individual had to have accumulated 85 points to return home, which for the most part, meant the men that had served with the paratroopers and Raiders back in '42-'43 and served on the Canal, Tarawa, Bougainville, Vella Lavella, Choiseul, etc. The rest of us joined the Second Division until we had enough points for discharge. In my case, it was Feb. 1, 1946, but there were no ships for transportation home. [I was] finally discharged March 28, 1946!!

The names I have highlighted I knew. Meketti was in E Co. weapons platoon, a former paratrooper; Dust a sergeant in the 2nd platoon of E Co. and also a paratrooper. Waite was in F Co., played college baseball and was very good. I read a story about him somewhere, but can't remember. I played touch football against him in Hawai'i—a good athlete.

Doug Rehor was the Bn armorer who came from Leominster, Mass. Our high schools played against each other, though Leominster was much larger. They were Class A, and Clinton was Class C. Doug was five years older than me. He graduated in 1938. That's the same year Col Antonelli graduated from the Naval Academy!

I believe the Japanese named the field for him. This Japanese team played the New York Yankees before the war! We won the game!

野球大会プログラム
PROGRAM OF BALL GAME

アントネアリー-進駐軍司令部ヨリ佐賀市民へコノ大会ヲ贈ル
COLONEL ANTONELLI-COMMANDING OFFICER PRESENTS

2ND. BN. 27MARINES (進駐軍チーム)
VERSUS (對)
SAGA CITY ALL STARS (全佐賀チーム)

AT (場所): ANTONELLI-FIELD, KYUSHU, JAPAN (アントネアリー-球場)
DATE (日時): NOV. 4. 1:30pm (十一月四日午後一時三十分)

AMERICAN (アメリカ)		JAPANESE (日本)	
CENTER FIELD 中	EAGLETON W.H. (イーグルトン)	3RD BASE 三	OKAMOTO 岡 宗
2ND BASE 二	MEKETTI P.J. (メケティ)	SHORT STOP 遊	IMAMURA 今 江
CATCHER 捕	HARTSELL C. (ハートセル)	CATCHER 捕	GOTO 後 洋
LEFT FIELD 左	WAITE M. (ワイト)	LEFT FIELD 左	IDA 井 田
SHORT STOP 遊	HUMINISKI P.J. (フミンスキ)	PITCHER 投	INADOMI 稲 宮
3RD BASE 三	RIDER E.C. (ライダー)	1ST BASE 一	TOGAWA 戸 川
1ST BASE 一	CLEMENTS C.A. (クレメンツ)	RIGHT FIELD 右	YAMADA 山 田
RIGHT FIELD 右	HILES B. (ヒールズ)	CENTER FIELD 中	KAWASOE 川 添
PITCHER 投	REHOR D. (レホー)	2ND BASE 二	MOCHINAGA 持 永
PITCHER 投	HOWELL G.W. (ハウエル)	PITCHER 投	NAMUNAGA 南 永
CATCHER 捕	VON FRECKEN V.J. (フォンフレンケン)	PITCHER 投	FURUKAWA 古 川
CATCHER 捕	CAPUTA R. (カプター)	IN FIELDERS 内	NANRI 南 里
IN FIELDERS 内	BROWSSARD (ブrossard)	IN FIELDERS 内	NAGAO 永 尾
IN FIELDERS 内	DUST W.E. (ダスト)	IN FIELDERS 内	YAMAUCHI 山 内
OUT FIELDERS 外	ADMAS S. (アドマス)	OUT FIELDERS 外	MORI 森
OUT FIELDERS 外	OLIVER W.G. (オリヴァー)	OUT FIELDERS 外	FUKUSHIMA 福 島
OUT FIELDERS 外	BUCKNER H.A. (バックナー)	OUT FIELDERS 外	SHUNTSUGU 丸 藤
OUT FIELDERS 外	PETERSON C.E. (ピーターソン)	OUT FIELDERS 外	KITAJIMA 北 島
M A N A G E R			
LT. PAUL A RENNE (レンヌ-中尉)		S. EGUCHI (日本国空軍 大 尉)	

There was a fellow living in Clinton named Jerry O'Leary who graduated with Rehor. Jerry married a classmate of mine. I used to see him quite often, and I went to Leominster for his 50th high school anniversary. I met Doug, but he had a hard time remembering me and later died.

When Douglas McArthur heard about the game, he was very upset, to say the least. There was to be absolutely no fraternization, and I guess Tony Antonelli heard about it. I know the (houses of ill repute) were off limits from Day One. I did M.P. duty locally for some time!

CAMP TARAWA

Continued from page 1

Second Marine Division named their camp after the brutal battle they had just fought to honor the Marines who died there. The division departed from Camp Tarawa in spring 1944.

The Fifth Marine Division used Camp Tarawa beginning in fall 1944 to train for the assault on Iwo Jima. The Fifth Marine Division left the camp in late December 1944 and returned to the camp in March 1945 after the battle of Iwo Jima to recover, get replacements and prepare for the invasion of the Japanese mainland.

The Japanese surrendered in August 1945, ending the war. The Fifth Division left late that month for occupation duty in Japan. The camp was closed in November 1945. The Parker Ranch leased the property for the camp to the U.S. government for \$1 with the requirement that the property be returned to its prior condition at the end of the lease. For that reason, there are very few buildings left from the camp. The Marines, Navy corpsmen and Seabees lived in tents, but some quonset huts and other buildings were erected and some local existing buildings were used for the camp.



Camp Memorial: The memorial is located on the west side of Mamalahoa Highway south of town and just north of the entrance into the Parker Ranch headquarters. Ranch owner Richard Smart donated the land for the Camp Tarawa memorial. The large rock with the brass plaque was erected in 1984, and the granite panels that are part of the memorial behind the rock were dedicated in 1998. The westbound road behind the gate that can be seen from the memorial was the main entrance into the camp. Vast tent camps were along both sides of this road.



Parker Ranch HQ, 1943-45



Parker Ranch Historic Home/Pu'u'opelu: Ranch owner Richard Smart offered his home Pu'u'opelu, shown in the photos, as headquarters for the Marines. The building is now the Parker Ranch headquarters, which contains historical exhibits. The road (Pu'u'opelu Road) west to the museum from the Mamalahoa Highway is just south of the Camp Tarawa memorial. The camp parade ground was near the headquarters building. Just north of the headquarters building is an old road that topographical maps show going to the base of Buster Brown Hill. This was likely the route the Marines used for their training hikes.



Barbara (Kahilu) Hall, 1943-45



Barbara (Kahilu) Hall/now Parker School: This was an existing building, which has since been remodeled, that served as the main USO for Camp Tarawa. The building is located on the north side of Lindsey Road across from the county park. It was the site of dances to music played by famous orchestras, entertainment by big-name stars and other recreational activities. There is a memorial in front of the building. The camp also had outdoor stages and movie screens for showing films.

Site of Hospital: The Waimea Elementary School and Waimea Hotel were used for a hospital and nurses' quarters. The hospital was located on the west side of the Mamalahoa Highway across from the present-day Waimea Elementary School. The hotel was just north of the school on Lindsey Road. The former school building and nurses' quarters were later moved west along Kawaihae Road to near where the Longs Drugstore is presently located. The former school building is on the north side and is used as the Isaacs Art Center, and the former nurses' quarters on the south side is used as the Gallery of Great Things. The site of the former school is currently a large vacant lot.

Waimea County Park: This is the site of the camp recreation field. The baseball field was called Iwo Jima Field after the Fifth Marine Division returned to the camp following the battle. The park is located south across the street from Parker School on Lindsey Road and north of Kawaihae Road as you near the center of town. The park was a busy place, as sports were a big part of the camp activities for the Marines both as participants and spectators. There were division- and regimental-level baseball teams and unit softball teams that competed, as well as boxing matches, basketball games and tug-of-wars. The division band also practiced on this field.



Buster Brown Hill, as it appears today, served as one of the training hills in preparation for the climb up Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima (below).



Buster Brown Hill: Marines of the Fifth Marine Division climbed this imposing hill just north of town and other hills, in preparation for the climb up Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. The photo of Buster Brown Hill was taken from near the main gate into the camp.



Flag Pole/School Building: Since the Marines were using the town school building as a hospital, private

Continued

homes and even a garage were used as schools for the local children until the engineers of the Second Marine Division built a new school south across from the county park near the St. James Episcopal Church. The building still stands along St. James Circle Drive, as shown below, and is currently being used by the Waimea Country School, a private school. The original flagpole at the entrance to Camp Tarawa was saved and moved to the front of this building.

Bordelon Field: This was the camp aircraft landing strip on the west side of Mamalahoa Highway, just south of Lalamilo Farm Road at the south side of town. The outline of the abandoned landing strip can be seen on old topographical maps and Google Earth. Bordelon Field was named after Marine William Bordelon, who was killed in action at Tarawa. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery. The present Waimea-Kohala airport is south of this site on the east side of the highway.



Quonset Huts: In July 2011, two quonset huts remained that were used by the Marines on the west side of Mamalahoa Highway south of town. By July 2014, only one remained as shown in the top photo, which was just north of the Camp Tarawa memorial. This quonset hut was used as a “slop chute” (beer hall) by the 28th Marines. It was still there in May 2015, but gone in July 2016. Only the cement foundation remains.

There is still a former Marine quonset hut being used as part of the Waimea Express gas station at the west edge of town on the south side of Kawaihae Road at its intersection with Opelo Road. It is in the photo at the bottom left side of the page.



Hapuna Beach/Camp Drewes: Hapuna Beach is one of the most popular beaches on the island today, but it was once the site of amphibious training for the Marines’ Pacific Island campaigns. Camp Henry Drewes, the camp of the Second Amtrac Battalion, was at the beach and where the Hapuna Prince Hotel is now located. The camp was named for Maj Drewes, the commanding officer of the Second Amtrac Battalion, who died Nov. 20, 1943, of wounds received in the battle of Tarawa. There is a marker for the camp at the west end of the beach parking lot shown below.



Church Road: The churches along historical Church Road on the west side of the Mamalahoa Highway north of Waimea were there during the Camp Tarawa period. Marines were welcomed to the local churches.

Rodeo Grounds: The arena where the Marines participated in rodeos with the local paniolos (cowboys)

is still being used just south of town on the east side of the Mamalahoa Highway at Ala Ohia Road. The current grandstand does not date from the camp period, but the oval arena itself is in the same location.

Pohakuloa Artillery Camp: This camp was along Saddle Road (present day Daniel K. Inouye Highway) at what is now the U.S. Army Garrison-Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) used by both the Army and Marines. There are many old-looking quonset huts visible from the highway, but none of them were there in the 1943-45 period.

Hilo: The Pioneer Battalion was the division rear at Hilo for both the Second and Fifth Divisions. Hilo had the only port facilities on the island that could handle the transports that brought the Marines to the island and took them to the next battle. The Marines were transported to and from the docks by train and trucks. A cadre of Marines and Seabees remained at Hilo as security for the port and Naval Air Station (present day Hilo airport) to handle the supply ships for the camp and to keep the port facilities ready for embarkation. Camp Banyan was on the southwest side of Banyan Drive across from Reeds Bay on the site of the present golf coast. The Mokuola USO was on Coconut Island northwest of Banyan Drive. The old Naniloa Hotel along Banyan Drive was where USO entertainers stayed when they came to entertain the Marines on the island. The port facilities at Hilo are still in the same location

as in 1943-1945. Standing on the shore at Reeds Bay, it doesn't take much imagination to visualize Navy transport ships at the docks instead of the cruise ships that are often there today.

Other Places: There are several commercial buildings in Waimea dating from the camp period that were part of the Marines landscape. The former Bric-a-Brac shop is on the north side of Lindsey Road just west of Mamalahoa Highway, and the former Choc Inn, a general store, is on the south side of Kawaihae Road just west of St. James Church. Both buildings have been enlarged and remodeled. The old Parker Ranch slaughterhouse is at the east end of Lindsey Road. There is a former Japanese theater building, now a liquor store, on the north side of the Mamalahoa Highway at the east edge of town. Honoka'a (Honey Cow), a town northeast of Waimea along the Mamalahoa Highway, was a favorite liberty destination. The Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church at 76-5960 Mamalahoa Highway in Holualoa contains a plaque honoring the Marines of the Second Division who helped rebuild the church while at Camp Tarawa.

Greguras has visited and photographed the memorial and other Camp Tarawa sites numerous times. He is an amateur historian and served as a platoon leader with H-2-5 of the First Marine Division in the Vietnam War. He can be reached at fgreguras@hotmail.com.

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 HALDEMAN, Jack **A-5TH TANK** 5/27/2013
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 HEALEY, Morris **F-2-27** 4/26/2015
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LAXTON, Carl E. **5TH PION** 10/2/2015
 MADILL, John **D-2-28** 9/1/2014
 MAXWELL, Curtis **5TH SIG** 9/13/2016
 MORAVEC, Franklin R. **HQ-1-28** 5/10/2015
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 PAGOAGA, Albert P. **E-2-27** 1/30/2017
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Honoring those who served with a military multi-tool

Haddonfield, N.J., resident Scott “Bull” Durham never served in the military, but he wanted to show his gratitude to those who served with more than the perfunctory “thank you for your service.” After giving it some careful and thoughtful consideration, Durham came up with a plan in 2014 he felt good about and called it “Honor Your Hero.” He took the idea to Judi Tapper, the president of the Department of New Jersey Gold Star Mothers.

To honor and thank the fallen heroes and veterans for their service, and the Gold Star Mothers and relatives for their loss, Durham now gives each one a multipurpose knife with the veteran’s name and service information engraved on metallic strips on the double handle.

The 60-year-old Tennessee native paid for the first 500 himself at a cost of \$35 each. He still provides them gratis, but is now accepting contributions as the project gathers momentum. Initially, he planned to give 10,000 knives, then raised it to 25,000 and now says he won’t stop until he has given 100,000.

“All my family served and I have always had a love for the military and appreciate those who serve and sacrifice for me, my family and millions of other Americans,” the district manager for a property insurance company said in a 2015 brochure. “I got this idea and got major discounts from vendors. The program has gotten out of control, but in a good way because donations are flowing in from all over the country, and I’m getting enough to keep the endeavor going.”

While the project has gone nationwide, Durham also travels to battlefields where the veterans he honors have served. He recently went with Military Historical Tours and the Iwo Jima Association of American to Guam and on to Iwo Jima to attend the annual “Reunion of Honor” between the Japanese and the Americans on the island where so many of each country died or were wounded.

“Thanks to (the MHT staff),” Durham emailed from Tokyo where he continued his trip, “I just probably had the most memorable eight days of my life.”

At this point, Durham has personally delivered, as he did on the RoH tour, or sent the Swiss Army-like



Scott “Bull” Durham (pictured here on Mt. Suribachi) has made it his mission to provide a specially engraved keepsake to thousands of veterans and to the loved ones of fallen heroes in gratitude and honor.



Iwo Jima Marine veteran James A. “Jim” Kelly, 5THSER, ordered one of the multipurpose tools, which he says will be “an incredible keepsake to pass along to my family.”

knife keepsake to more than 4,500 veterans or family members. Jim Kelly, a 95-year-old Marine Iwo Jima veteran from Urbana, Ill., who spent 36 days on Iwo Jima, ordered his knife as soon as he heard it was available and sent a contribution as soon as he saw the knife.

Continued on page 16

From Hilo to Iwo Jima and Back

Editor's note: James M. "Jim" Kelly's brief diary from Jan. 6-April 16, 1945, covers his trip from Hilo, Hawaii, to Iwo Jima, the 36 days he spent on Iwo Jima with the Fifth Service Battalion, Fifth Marine Division, and his return to Camp Tarawa on the Big Island of Hawai'i where the division trained for the invasion of Iwo Jima and were preparing for the invasion of Mainland Japan. The 95-year-old Kelly, a longtime life member of the Fifth Marine Division Association, was a 22-year-old Marine private on Iwo Jima and was discharged as a corporal on May 10, 1946, after serving for several months during the Occupation of Japan after the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, respectively, and Japan surrendered. The Richard L. Pittman Marine Corps League #1231 was named for his high school classmate and basketball teammate who was killed on 21 February 1945 while serving with the 28th Marine Regiment.

From James M. Kelly's 1945 Diary

Jan. 6—Left camp at 0600, arrived at Hilo at 1130. Waiting to board ship. Went out to Navy Air station; stayed there tonight.

Jan. 7—Sunday, up at usual time. Standing by waiting to leave to board ship at 1400, the USS Talladega.

Jan. 8—Still here in the harbor. Order of the day sail at 1700. Our second day aboard ship—new ship, nice quarters.

Jan. 9—Been at sea all day. Made practice landings at Molokai. Three day water rough.

Jan. 10—Sailed into Honolulu today at 1230. Liberty was given from 1630 to 1830. Looking for Bob [Kelly's brother who was in the Navy].

Jan. 11—Thursday. Still in port at Honolulu. Received mail tonight. Letters from [wife] Lee and all the folks.

Jan. 12—Sail out of Honolulu at 0900. Lay outside of Molokai all night. Practice landings again tomorrow.

Jan. 13—My first practice landing the terrain. Looks like it will be plenty rough.

Jan. 14—More practice landings. Sail out to sea at night.

Jan. 15—Another landing tonight. The water is really rough—big swells.

Jan. 16—The boys made landings again. Ours was cancelled. Stayed aboard ship.

Jan. 17—Still more landings. We didn't go like yesterday. Just watched.

Jan. 18—Back to Honolulu. Docked at 1430. Liberty. Looked for Bob and [other brother] E.W., Fitz [Edwin T. Fitzpatrick], [Daniel P. "Danny"] Glameyer and me.

Jan. 19—On liberty, went to Pearl Harbor. Looking for Bob. He's here but can't make connection.

Jan. 20—Liberty again. Looking for Bob. No luck. He won't stand still. Am always too late.

Jan. 21—Went to Louisiana Park today. Beer and eats. Fitz, Danny and me. No news.

Jan. 22—Was at the park again, and Bob got my note and found me. Grand time together. He looks good.

Jan. 23—Was on liberty with Bob. Looking at the sites of Honolulu and such.

Jan. 24—Bob found me at Louisiana Park. Was a really grand time together with Bob again today. Grand to be together with him.

Jan. 25—Still on liberty with Bob. What a day.

Jan. 26—Today was my last day with Bob. Ship out tomorrow around 1000. Bob is going to try and see me before I leave.

Jan. 27—Bob didn't make it. Sailed out of Honolulu at 1030. Lost an hour. At 1900, bad day is coming.

Jan. 28—Water, water is all you see. A nice day and what a night. Nice night for roaming.

Jan. 29—Still out to sea. Lose another half hour at 1900. Total blackout 2300.

Jan. 30—Still going at sea. Lose another half-hour today.

Jan. 31—Another day has past. Close to our object.

Feb. 1—Lost a day. No first this year.

Feb. 2—Feb. 1 sure passed fast—wasn't any. Went over the International Dateline. Couldn't see no line (ha).

Feb. 3—Still at sea. Just lay around and read.

Feb. 4—Went to church today. Lost a half hour today. 28th day. Briefing started. Iwo Jima is our object.

Feb. 5—Sighted land. Marshall Islands group at 0900. Eniwetok Atoll for supplies. Half hour gone again.

Feb. 6—Taking aboard supplies. Fattening up for the kill—good eats.

Feb. 7—Left today at 1130. More briefing on Iwo Jima.

Feb. 8—G.Q. [General Quarters] passing the Truk Island. On lookout for enemy. Past 2200.

Feb. 9—Still at sea.

Feb. 10—Little rain today. Still at sea.

Feb. 11—Sailed into Saipan at 0700. Rain today.

Feb. 12—Sailed away from Saipan tonight for protection.

Feb. 13—Back to Saipan for more supplies.

Feb. 14—Had a little excitement—air raid smoke screen was laid down to hide the ships. Bombed Saipan. No damage.

Feb. 15—Thursday, 40th day. Still at Saipan all day and night. D-day is the 19th.

Feb. 16—Still at Saipan but no liberty. Left 1630. Days are getting shorter as we get closer.

Feb. 17—Still headed for Iwo. Nice weather. Ocean is calm.

Feb. 18—Rain today. Tomorrow is it—the big day.

Feb. 19—Landed on Iwo at 1158. All hell's breaking loose. Seen my first dead Marine. More Japs. Dug in—first mortar miss.

Feb. 20—“Coop” [Sgt Estel G. Cooper] and I figured on finding rest of gang. Snipers out pretty thick. So sorry another miss.

Feb. 21—Moved up behind the 28th. They need water and ammo. Things going according to plans. Lots of casualties. Banzai attack.

Feb. 22—Took more supplies up front. Saw doctor and corpsman hit by mortar just a few yards ahead of us. It is raining all day.

Feb. 23—Flag was raised on top of Mt. Suribachi around 1030. Was at the foot of it. Moved halfway to the top of it. Still missing men. Found Carmon.

Feb. 24—Still a few snipers. Got word “Cap” [Richard L. Pittman, a high school classmate of Kelly's for whom, years later, MCL #1230 in Urbana, Ill., was named.] was killed, the 21st air attack just one plane. No damage.

Feb. 25—Rest of company moved in today. Was really glad to see them. Went out on a sniper patrol. Got him.

Feb. 26—Company finishing building foxholes. Went to western part of the island up to first airfield Montoya.

Feb. 27—Went west again. Behind the lines. Lots of casualties. Couple of close ones today. Too close for comfort.

Feb. 28—Took more supplies to the front. The boys were glad to see us and have the stuff. Boys up past second airfield saw “Cap” Gudy today.

Feb. 29—Tonight was awakened around 0100. Japs

dropped a mortar in ammo dump. Hell broke loose. Exploded gas—had put on gas mask. Just 150 yards away.

March 1—Three of the greatest guys in the world killed on Iwo at 1100: Fitz, [Charles J.] Barrett and Danny. Had a feeling something would happen.

March 2—Couple snipers sneak through the lines. Couple shots and mortars come close, but were finally caught and killed.

March 3—Coop and I went to graveyard to see the boys before put away. Today's the 13th day here.

March 4—Still going back and forth to the front. Attended church today.

March 5—Rumors it'll be secured in a few days. Sure hope so.

March 6—Drizzled today. Still working.

March 7—Still working. Went to the beach for a swim after coming back from the front. First bath.

March 8—Personnel gear started to come in from the casualties. Making reports for gear.

March 9—Work on personnel gear. Lots of nice things but don't care to keep [them]. Air raid siren; nothing happened.

March 10—Started having hot chow for breakfast and dinner now. Cook our own.

March 11—Over to graveyard to see the boys. “Cap's” grave is in Lot 1, Row 9, Grave 3 (#163)

March 12—More gear to check. Boy, the flies are big and plentiful. Have to knock them off the chow.

March 13—Another one of the boys killed. Sniper between the eyes (Bos Jean).

March 14—Island supplies to be secured. Lots of guys still being killed and wounded. Army moved in D-24. Fix bayonets and newsreel. What a laugh.

March 15—Rained a little. Still work is plentiful. Went up front to see how things going. Plenty rough.

March 16—Army is in with their radar and musical instruments. Have a big bonfire and singing. None of them has left their area.

March 17—No rest for the wicked. 27th day today.

March 18—All hell broke loose again; news Gen. surrendered. Guys open up with everything. Air raid siren again.

March 19—Couple letters from you, dear [wife Lee]. Black widows are out again tonight.

March 20—Two more casualties. Just slightly wounded. Not bad.

March 21—Getting ready to leave—31 days here. Over to graveyard this morning.

Continued

March 22—Walk into a Banzai attack tonight. Too strong. Three live boys had a field day.

March 23—Work ready to leave.

March 24—Work until 0230. Getting ready to leave.

March 25—Finished up today. Should leave soon.

March 26—Just laid around. Orders on to leave at 0630 tomorrow.

March 27—Left area at 0800. Move to beach. Boarded LST at 1130. Went aboard USS G.F. Elliott. What a tub. Will it make it back?

March 28—Been at sea since yesterday. Bid Iwo farewell. Was in God's hands at all times.

March 29—What a ship. Not even fit enough for the enemy. Chow stinks.

March 30—Sailed all day. Three days at sea. Chow still stinks.

March 31—Gained hour today. Ship is filthy and stinks. Hog pen better.

April 1—Fifth day at sea. Nice day. Smooth sailing.

April 2—Saw land at 1130. Docked at 1400 back at Marshalls-Eniwetok.

April 3—In port to take on chow. Here's hoping it is better. Been eating "C" rations.

April 4—Left for Hilo at 0900.

April 5—Chow is just the same. Good day.

April 6—Big storm today. Everything bad as ever.

April 7—Chow is just the same. Good day.

April 8—Easter Sunday, went top deck to church. Tomorrow is Sunday, too.

April 9—Bob's 19 years old and me aboard ship. G.F. Elliott should pull in Pearl Harbor soon.

April 10—Rifle inspection. Gain half hour. 15th day at sea.

April 11—Gain half hour. Supposed to see land tomorrow.

April 12—FDR died today. Received word while pulling into Pearl Harbor by ship. Hope to see Bob tomorrow. I have liberty to see him.

April 13—Met Bob at fleet landing Pearl Harbor. Sure was swell to see him. He'll be leaving soon.

April 14—Saw Bob a few minutes this morning. Came aboard G.F. Elliott. Left Pearl Harbor at noon for Hilo, Hawaii.

April 15—Pulling into Hilo this morning. Went to Camp Tarawa. Place sure looks good. Lots of mail for me.

April 16—Mail is sure pouring in. Believe I had 70 letters so far. Place still looks plenty good.

EDITOR'S DESK

Continued from page 3

photo apparently existed, Gould gave them the negative and granted the license to reproduce the image in perpetuity at no cost.

"We had no idea if it was ruined, scratched, underexposed or damaged in some way," Hatch said later.

But for Hatch's quick thinking, millions of people wouldn't have had the access to the iconic photo that existed in the memory of Marines like Ben Correll; visitors to Arlington National Cemetery might not have seen the sculpture of the Marine Corps War Memorial; and a piece of Americana would not have the place in history that it does.

MULTI-TOOL

Continued from page 11

"It's an incredible keepsake to pass along to my family," Kelly said.

The knife has been given to all 67 living Medal of Honor recipients; more than 800 Gold Star families—including Chris Kyle's family, the soldier portrayed in the movie, "American Sniper," who was killed while trying to help a Marine veteran of the Iraq war; celebrities who served; golf legend Arnold Palmer, who served in the Coast Guard in the 1950s; POW and Vietnam veteran Arizona Sen. John McCain; many World War II veterans, including former President George H.W. Bush and his son, former President George W. Bush, and more than 400 Vietnam veterans.

Durham has received donations ranging from \$10 to \$1,000 to cover the cost of each knife, which has a three-inch blade, pliers, screwdriver, bottle opener, file, saw and more and is presented in a tin box, accompanied by a handwritten note, telling people how much he appreciates the selfless sacrifice they made for the country.

"I've made them for 18-year-olds all the way up to a 103-year-old," Durham said. "Seeing how much this means to veterans and our families of the fallen, I wish I'd started this endeavor 30 years ago."

If you would like to have a knife made in your name or a relative's name, or want to make a donation, you can contact Bull Durham at s.durham2004@comcast.net, call 609-332-5030, or write to Scott "Bull" Durham, 146 Hopkins Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. To learn more, Google "Bull Durham Knives."

War letters help preserve the Fifth Marine Division's history

When Jim Kelly returned to Camp Tarawa after the Iwo Jima campaign, he wrote in the last entry of his diary published in this issue that, "Mail is sure pouring in. Believe I had 70 letters so far." Marines who fought with the Fifth Division on Iwo Jima undoubtedly had many letters from loved ones at home and had written many themselves.

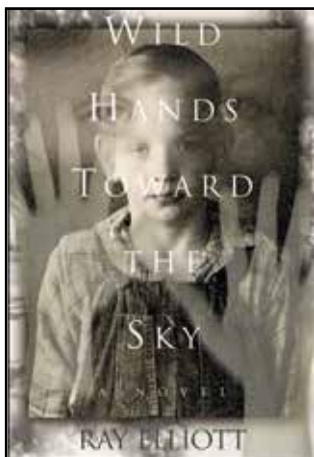
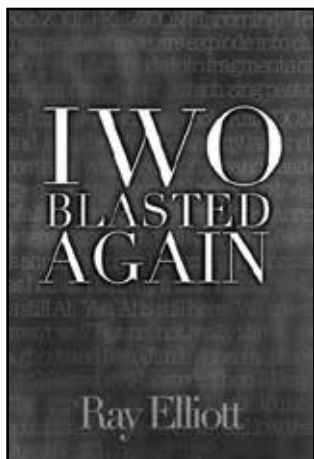
Along with the memorabilia being collected for the Camp Tarawa Museum, such letters would help preserve and highlight the history those Marines lived and sacrificed for our freedom from the time the division formed at Camp Pendleton in the fall of 1944, on to Camp Tarawa for training, the battle on Iwo Jima, the return to Camp Tarawa and the eventual occupation of Japan after the war was over.

Some 20 years ago, Dear Abby wrote about a

historian, Andy Carroll, whose project sought war-related letters to help preserve and honor the veterans who fought this country's wars. Carroll's collection now has some 100,000 letters written from the American Revolution through our nation's wars since and includes emails from veterans who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With 70,000 Marines on Iwo Jima and the replacements who joined the division back at Camp Tarawa and went to Japan for the occupation, veterans and their families have hundreds and thousands of letters written during those years.

In addition to other memorabilia you have for the history of the division, please consider contributing such letters to Kathy Painton at 62-3928 Loli'i Place H1, Kamuela, HI 96743.



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Military Justice with Heart

At the recent West Coast Iwo Jima Association Banquet, I shared a table with Valerie Leman, a practicing attorney and the daughter of the late Craig Leman, a stalwart member of the Association who commanded a platoon in H-3-26 and was wounded and awarded a Silver Star for his leadership and valor on Iwo Jima.

I was put in contact with Craig Leman many years ago through Mark Flowers, an internet historian, about the Marines in WWII. I was able to form a lasting friendship with Craig, who sailed to Iwo Jima on the APA Hansford that transported my dad's 1/27, through email and phone. At the 2013 IJAA event Craig, Ray Elliott and I shared a room for the three-day event at the Arlington Sheraton, where we enjoyed conversation about Iwo Jima, the Marine Corps, leadership and military justice. When Craig told me of a desertion case from Iwo Jima that he was familiar with, I shared my tale of a young Marine who went AWOL and whom I defended in a Special Courts Martial when I was a platoon leader in F-2-8 in 1962, just after 2/8 returned from the Cuban Missile Crisis deployment. At the banquet in California, Craig Leman's daughter, Valerie, told me more about the case of the Marine on Iwo Jima being charged with desertion, as she had learned about it from her father. I thought it would be a great story for the Spearhead News. It is a little known event from Iwo Jima and an example of a Marine leader with legal training achieving "Military Justice with Heart."

— John Butler, President

By Valerie Leman

2ndLt Craig B. Leman (H-3-26) (1923-2014), my dad, a member of the 27th replacement battalion, was assigned to the Shore Party aboard the USS Hansford, an APA transporting LtCol John A Butler's 1st Bn 27th Marines (1/27) to Iwo Jima. Col Butler's battalion was assigned to land on Red Beach 2 at H-Hour with the Shore Party to follow in their wake.

Several days after supervising the unloading of supplies while under fire on Red Beach 2, my dad was sent to the front as a replacement platoon leader with the 3rd battalion 26th Marines. On the way, he passed through Col Butler's CP and observed Col Butler

kneeling with an open map, talking to some officers that my dad recognized from aboard the Hansford. My dad continued on until he reported to the battalion commander of 3/26, a LtCol Fagan, who assigned him as a platoon leader in H company 3/26. During the conversation with Col Fagan, my dad heard Col Fagan talking on the phone about someone that Fagan thought very highly of who had just been killed. As it turned out, my dad learned later that this was LtCol Butler, whose battalion had recently been attached to the 26th Marines. My dad then reported to Howe company, where he served as a platoon leader through several days of heavy fighting until he was wounded and finally evacuated.

When my dad recovered from his head wound, he was returned to H-3-26 at Camp Tarawa where the Fifth Marine Division had arrived after Iwo Jima to recover, rebuild and prepare for the anticipated and dreaded invasion of Japan. While at Camp Tarawa, his company commander, Capt Conrad Pearson (Harvard Law School), assigned a Private X to his platoon—a man my dad never forgot, a man who had then-unknown to my dad been recently acquitted of desertion charges. Years after the war, my dad continued to reflect on the circumstances that led to the charges of desertion against Private X, who had later been assigned to his platoon without much of an explanation by his company commander.

One of the most serious military offenses one can be charged with is desertion. As observed in Charles Glass's book, "The Deserters: A Hidden History of World War II" (Penguin Press 2013), approximately 38,000 U.S. service members in World War II were tried for evading hazardous duty by dishonorable means. Forty-nine Americans were sentenced to death for desertion during World War II, but only one was executed. "Desertions were rare in the Pacific, where a man seeking to avoid danger had nowhere to hide," according to Glass. But there was a desertion charge against Private X, who had allegedly abandoned his unit on Iwo Jima. That was the man who was assigned to my dad's platoon by Capt Pearson, who told my dad at the time that he felt personally responsible for Private X but could not reveal anything about his background

or why he was assigned.

Years later, when writing an account of this which was sent to the USMC archives, my dad wrote, “The captain assured me that he would be a good Marine and asked me to keep an eye on him and to observe how he related to my other men. Although Private X tended to be a loner, his fellow Marines liked and respected him. He performed his duties flawlessly and became one of the best men in the platoon. He served honorably through the occupation in Japan and in Palau, where he participated in operations to bring in Japanese stragglers for repatriation.”

In August 1945 Japan surrendered, and the division was sent to Japan for occupation duties. A month later, the 26th Marines were sent to Palau in Western Micronesia to secure this previous Japanese base and arrange for the repatriation of 24,000 Japanese soldiers who were still in the Palau region. Shortly after arriving in Palau, my dad was assigned as the battalion operations officer and further assigned as a recorder for a Summary Court Martial. During this assignment he read the transcripts of the General Courts Martial of five Marines charged with desertion during the battle of Iwo Jima. Four of these men were found guilty and sentenced to 40 years at Portsmouth Naval Prison and given dishonorable discharges. My dad recognized the fifth such prisoner as Private X, who had been acquitted after a vigorous defense by Capt Pearson who, as a combat officer, took a strong personal interest in the case and as a lawyer, conducted a determined and effective legal defense.

By investigating every detail of the charges, Capt Pearson found that Private X and a fellow Marine became separated from their unit when some of their group being sent to the front were killed. Private X then spent 11 days drifting from unit to unit, lending a hand wherever he could, sometimes accompanied by the other Marine private he knew. Private X served as a stretcher bearer, always dangerous on Iwo, delivered ammo to assault units, and assisted combat engineers, sometimes with his companion along.

Private X made no secret of his identity or that he was separated from his unit. Unfortunately, no one ever questioned his status or assigned him or his fellow private to the units they visited. When finally apprehended, Private X could not identify or recall the units they had visited, and he was charged with desertion. All this had occurred in the last days of the fighting on Iwo Jima when many units were depleted of key personnel and included many replacements, so it can be presumed that record keeping and accountability

was not at its best anywhere. Another factor was the challenging terrain and landscape, particularly in the northwest of the island where the Fifth Division was fighting and where men could become separated from their units during combat; and then, of course, there is the ever-present fog of war.

Luckily, Private X was given Capt Pearson to defend him. The captain was initially reluctant to take on the defense and was not hopeful, given the seriousness of the charges against Private X and with his knowledge of what had happened in the other cases. Capt Pearson could see the improbability of any defense overcoming the sentiment of the General Courts Martial board, who themselves had endured combat on Iwo Jima and who would have to be convinced beyond any shadow of doubt that Private X did not desert his post because of cowardice.

As soon as he saw the prisoner and talked about the missing 11 days with him, the captain felt that a terrible mistake had been made through the ignorance of Private X and not by intent. As the young Marine told the story, the captain came to believe that although Private X had acted unwisely, he had acted in good faith by supplying his services to other units participating in the still ongoing battle. The problem for Capt Pearson was to collect credible evidence that could be legally and effectively presented to substantiate Private X’s account.

Pearson asked for a delay in the trial, which was granted because of ongoing training requirements and problems in securing witnesses from scattered units. He went over the story with Private X to establish the terrain features in relation to time. Then, going over the individual battle reports of the units engaged, he was able to identify some of the units that the accused had encountered. The next tasks were the hardest: to go to every one of those units to try to find individual Marines answering Private X’s painfully recalled description and then to ask them and others whether they recalled two or three Marines who had worked with them during the fighting. He then tried to check their recollections for details that would confirm Private X’s story. More often than not, he found that “Red” or “Patriot” or “Tony” or “Pancho” had been killed or badly wounded, but he found a few who remembered and identified the accused as a member of a stretcher team or volunteer ammunition carrier or demolition crew.

As Capt Pearson worked through the division, the

Continued

pieces began to fall into place. The prisoner remembered staying for two days with a certain company during a particularly hot time. He recalled that the men spoke of the captain as “Butch” and described him. With a little patient searching, “Butch” was found and corroborated the details of the fighting during those two days and the terrain features around the shell crater he used for a command post, although he could not identify the prisoner as someone he had actually seen there.

So it went. With patience and perseverance, the captain slowly constructed his case and tried to reassure his client that they had a chance, although Private X’s spirits were low as he thought of what might happen to him.

The trial itself was tense. The other four charged had been found guilty, and were on their way to 40 years at the U. S. Navy prison in Portsmouth. They had also received dishonorable discharges. The prosecutor was a lawyer in civilian life who would professionally present the case to the stern-faced officers of the court. In this atmosphere, Capt Pearson encountered flinty-eyed resistance. Objections were raised over the introduction of the witnesses and evidence as irrelevant, but the captain persisted and finally prevailed. In argument, he granted that Private X’s absence from his original unit and failing to officially account for his whereabouts for 11 days was not officially acceptable and resulted from bad judgment. Private X had nevertheless demonstrated that his motives were honest and brave, that he wanted to help with the fighting still going on and had in fact done so. Capt Pearson was allowed to introduce his witnesses and to draw the whole story from the accused himself when he took the stand. A searching cross-examination failed to shake the boy’s story, and doubt of his guilt appeared for the first time on the absorbed countenances of the officers of the court.

In his summation, Capt Pearson stated that he had undertaken the defense with reluctance but had himself changed his mind when he checked Private X’s story, and that he was willing to take the young Marine into his company and be personally responsible for his conduct in future campaigns. “It was this expressed stipulation that moved the court to acquit Private X of the charge of desertion.”

For the rest of the war, Private X served with honor, and, so far as I know, the secret of Private X’s ordeal was known only to the Officers of the Court, Capt Pearson, and to my dad. Capt Pearson acted in the highest traditions of a Marine officer and of the legal profession in ensuring that justice was done.

After the war, my dad returned to the U. S. and was discharged from the Marine Corps at Great Lakes, Illinois, on March 1, 1946. He went to medical school and became a surgeon. He always honored the men he served with, mourning those who didn’t come back, and he never forgot that justice was rendered to Private X.

Afterword

The Military Justice System encompasses not only criminal acts that are associated with civil justice, but also a number of other offenses applicable to the military alone. These include absence without authorization, leaving an assigned post, insubordination, conduct unbecoming, and most serious of all: desertion. There are several layers of judicial authority, beginning with unit commanders and extending through several levels of court martial, the highest being General Courts Martial.

In WWII, the Navy and Marine Corps operated under a judicial system known as “Rocks & Shoals.” In 1950, that was replaced with a Universal Code of Military Justice, established for all services. This system, known as UCMJ, has no doubt been modified over the years.

— John Butler

THE IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Marine Corps Marathon

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RUN FOR AN IWO VET!!!

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Help us raise funds for our Iwo Jima veterans’ return
to Iwo Jima! No pressure, just fun and camaraderie.

Text/Email/Call me and let’s talk!!

SPREAD THE WORD!!

Contact us at 703-590-1295 or
rsifuentes@iwojimaassociation.org
Website: www.iwojimaassociation.org

*The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA)
is a 501c3 non-profit public charity.*



Medals of Honor

awarded to those in the Fifth Marine Division

By John Butler

Fighting men whose deeds of extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty are witnessed and documented are awarded our nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

One can assume that in a chaotic and intense battle like Iwo Jima, not every such deed of valor was recorded and documented. In some cases, witnesses were killed or badly wounded and evacuated, or the deed performed was unseen and known only to God.

Fortunately, in most cases there were survivors who witnessed the act.

Great care is taken to review all reported deeds, and men who are awarded this honor are surely deserving. On Iwo Jima, 27 Medals of Honor were awarded. Twenty-one went to Marines and five to Navy personnel. Four of these Navy personnel were Navy Corpsmen attached to the Marine divisions on Iwo Jima. The fifth went to a Naval officer who commanded one of the screening LCI gunboats during the pre D-Day preparations. Fifth Marine Division Marines and Corpsmen received 17 of the 26 awarded to the three Marine divisions on the island during the 36-day battle.

The Admiral Nimitz quote, "On Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue," certainly described what it took to take the island of Iwo Jima. The record number of Medals of Honor awarded during the battle further validates Admiral Nimitz's quote. The 17 Medal of Honors awarded to Marines and Corpsmen of the Fifth Marine Division has never been equaled by any American division, Army or Marine, in any single battle that I am aware of.

Here is the list of Fifth Division Marines and Corpsmen so honored on Iwo Jima and in Vietnam where two of our reactivated regiments served so gallantly while attached to the First and Third Divisions. Eleven on Iwo Jima were posthumous awards, and both awards in Vietnam were, also.

All those not killed in action, who lived to go home and be honored, suffered wounds.

Medals of Honor – Iwo Jima

Corporal Charles J. Berry*: 1/26

Private First Class William R. Caddy*: 3/26

Captain Robert H. Dunlap: 1/26

Sergeant William G. Harrell: 1/28

Platoon Sergeant Joseph R. Julian*: 1/27

Private First Class James D. LaBelle: Hdqtrs 27th
Marines (Weapons Company)

Private First Class Jaclyn H. Lucas: 1/26

1st Lieutenant Jack Lummus*: 2/27

1st Lieutenant Harry L. Martin*: Pioneer Battalion

Private George Phillips*: 2/28

Private First Class Donald Ruhl*: 2/28

Private Franklin Sigler: 2/26

Corporal Tony Stein*: 1/28

Gunnery Sergeant William Walsh*: 3/27

Corpsmen

Pharmacist's Mate Second Class

George Edward Wahlen; 2/26

Pharmacist's Mate Third Class Jack Williams*: 3/28

Pharmacist's Mate First Class John Harlan Willis*:
3/27

Medals of Honor - Vietnam

Corporal Kent Taylor*: 3/26

(attached to 3rd Mar Div)

Private First Class Robert C. Burke*: 3/27

(attached to 1st Mar Div)

**indicates posthumous award*

Petition aims to have ship named for photographer Joe Rosenthal

By Tom Graves

Historian, Joe Rosenthal Chapter
USMC Combat Correspondent Association

IWO JIMA, February 19, 1945

Atop Mt. Suribachi, Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima, the iconic image of 28th Marines struggling to right a flagpole and the 48-star American Flag

SPEARHEAD NEWS, Spring/Summer 2016:

Suribachi flag raising still focus of attention, cover and one page inside

LEATHERNECK, August 2016:

Iwo Jima Flag Raising, cover and six pages inside

Why, after 71—now 72 years—are we still entranced by a single photo from a tiny island in the Pacific, 5,827 miles from Los Angeles and 7,387 miles from Washington, D.C.?

Those of us who know men who fought the battle, or have seen films or read some of the many books about Iwo Jima, understand the struggle it took those six Marines to reach the summit and raise that flag.

But Joe Rosenthal's photo also resonates for the many Americans who do not know the name "Iwo Jima" or the desperate battle that raged there in February and March 1945.

On Feb. 23, the fifth day of the battle, Rosenthal, a 33-year-old Associated Press photographer, joined a 40-man patrol from the 28th Marines at the summit of Mt. Suribachi, the 550-foot-high extinct volcano at the southern tip of Iwo Jima. Overlooking the invasion beaches and across the entire island, Suribachi was a fortress of machine gun, mortar, artillery and observation positions. An American flag had flown over the island since earlier that day.

Rosenthal and Marine Corps cameraman Sgt William Genaust reached the summit just as one flag came down and the new one raised by six Marines. Genaust captured a few seconds of movie film and Rosenthal exposed a single negative in his Speed Graphic press camera. The flag raising film was flown to Guam for developing. On Guam, even the darkroom

technician knew he was looking at something very special. Two days later the photo ran on the front page of 200 Sunday newspapers across the country. (Sgt Genaust did not survive the battle.)

Although Rosenthal would not see it himself for several more days, the photograph rallied the American people who had grown weary of war and its mounting casualties. Even before the island was declared secure, the flag-raisers had become national heroes. The iconic photo became the symbol of the Seventh War Bond Drive, earning \$26 billion for the war effort. The image on a postage stamp sold 137 million copies. It is considered the most recognized and most often reproduced photo in history. It is no wonder it is still in our thoughts and in the public eye!

While the iconic photo endures, Rosenthal's name is on the verge of being lost to history. A small group of Marines in the San Francisco Bay area are determined to change that. Members of the Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the USMC Combat Correspondent Association are petitioning the new Secretary of the Navy to name a warship for Joe Rosenthal.

Two Navy ships have been named "Iwo Jima," but without the photo, that name would remain unknown to the majority of Americans.

"By remembering and honoring Joe, we remember and honor the Marines on Iwo Jima and all veterans who have fought for our country," said Dale Cook, president of the Joe Rosenthal Chapter and Fourth Marine Division veteran who was wounded on Iwo Jima.

Rosenthal made four amphibious landings in the Pacific and covered the same dangerous beaches as the Marines. In his later years, he shunned the spotlight but showed his pride of being an Honorary Marine, the honor he prized above all others, including the Pulitzer Prize he earned with the flag-raising photo. Over the years, he was frequently quoted, "I took the picture, but the Marines took Iwo Jima."

The veterans believe his name on a Navy ship will help Americans remember the bloody battle that took the Marines up a hostile mountain to raise the American flag. Teamwork, determination, commitment are all qualities that touch our minds and spirits when we see the figures struggling and the flag beginning to unfurl.

All around the world, “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima” symbolizes the United States Marine Corps. And as Americans, it is an image that touches all of us.

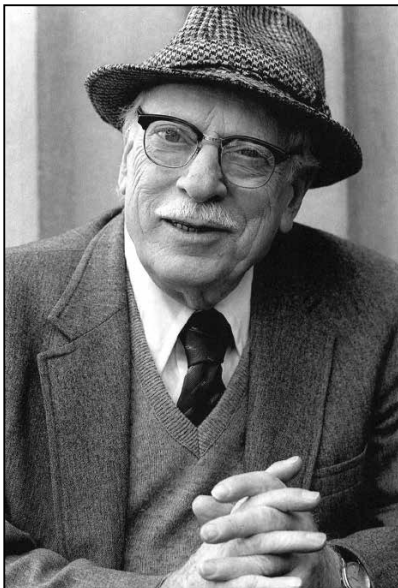
You can help honor Joe Rosenthal by signing the petition to the Secretary of the Navy. Go to www.USSJoe.org and follow the “Sign the Petition” link. The whole process takes about two minutes. You can also learn more about Joe and the flag raising, and maybe about the rumor that has endured for 72 years that the photo was posed. Then ask your family, friends and members of your veterans’ groups to sign and spread the word.

Experience, courage and luck brought Rosenthal to the highest point on the island that day: the experience he earned as a newspaper photographer in San Francisco, the courage he showed landing with the Marines and photographing the battle from the front, and the luck that took him up Suribachi that day just minutes before the second flag went up.

We can honor Joe, the Iwo Jima Marines and the spirit of a nation that could not be swayed from its duty and values. That spirit and those values will endure as long as there is an American flag to fly at the summit.

Sharing images of Rosenthal

Joe says that he took the photo, but the Marines took Iwo Jima. I may have pressed the shutter, but Joe made the photo.



I remember clearly what he said to me while we were at the Old Mint across from the San Francisco Chronicle building, where he went regularly to get his hair cut in the barbershop in the basement. He said, “Photographers like people to do things with their hands, don’t they?” And then he clasped his hands together and then he raised his left hand to his chin. I remember we were both laughing.

Joe knew I wasn’t a professional photographer (I was an editorial assistant in the Chronicle photo department) and didn’t have a clue as to what an important photo he took in 1945.

It would be my great joy to share a bit of Joe’s personality with your readers.

-- Nancy Wong
San Francisco, CA

April 25, 1994
432 Warren Dr. #2
San Francisco, CA
94131

NANCY WONG
Photo Department
San Francisco Chronicle
901 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
777-7078

Dear Nancy,


I sneak another look at the pictures of me that you sent, and I’m overwhelmed all over again. Not so much that the real ego-narcissus of me comes out; that’s sort of a bonus.

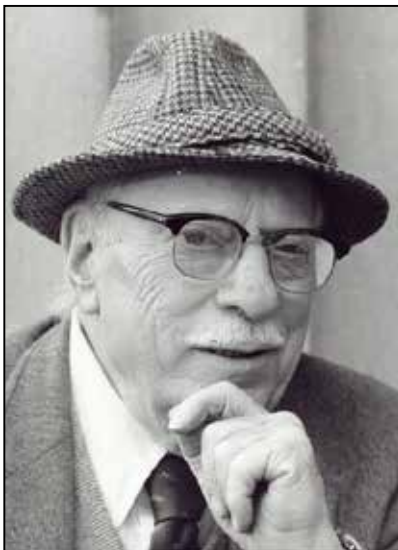
Well, I want to try to honestly say to you what good portraits I feel they are, and how much of myself I see and feel in what you mirror there. You may have overlooked some of my weak character lines, for which I thank you.

So now I enjoy those expressions you captured. They remind me of pleasant experiences that might otherwise fade from memory.

That’s what a good photographer can do for me. Nancy, you’re the greatest.

And that goes for my whole family.

Respectfully,

Joe Rosenthal



FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION JOURNAL ADVERTISING CONTRACT

- To be published in the Fifth Marine Division Association Reunion Journal Oct.17, 2017
- To be distributed to all members of the Association and solicitors.
- The Fifth Marine Division Association is a tax-exempt organization, and your ad is tax deductible.
- Advertiser agrees to make immediate payment by check or money order payable to the Fifth Marine Division Association with submission of the ad and understands that the Association will pay no commission to any agency or individual.

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___ Full Page \$250

Full-Page Ad: 7" wide X 10" deep

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___ Quarter Page \$100

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___ Eighth Page \$50

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- ___ What I want my ad to say. Please use your creativity to make it look good.
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- ___ Other artwork
- ___ Other

**Make checks out to FMDA
and mail to:**

***Must be received no later than July 30, 2017,
to meet publishing deadline.***

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

FMDA 68th ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM

October 17-24, 2017

COURTYARD MARRIOTT/ KING KAMEHAMEHA'S KONA BEACH HOTEL - KONA, HAWAI'I

Air Transportation

You will be responsible for your own air transportation to Kona, Hawai'i

The estimated cost for a round-trip airline ticket could be between \$600-\$1,200 per person depending on your departure city. Your local Marine Corps League Detachment or other veterans organizations could be asked to sponsor your flight.

Hotel Accommodations

Please contact the hotel directly to reserve your room: (808) 329-2911. Be sure to mention that you are with the Fifth Marine Division Association Reunion group.

The hotel selected for the reunion is the **Courtyard/Marriott King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel**. It is located on Ali'i Drive within walking distance to numerous restaurants, historical buildings and shops. You can view the hotel website at www.konabeachhotel.com. The negotiated rate is \$140 plus 13.42% tax per night for a King bed or Double Queen beds. Breakfast **is not** included with this rate. The total cost for 7 nights would be approximately \$1,120.

Hospitality Room

In an effort to keep your costs reasonable, snacks and drinks will be provided in the hospitality room during the times it is open each day.

Tour Descriptions

The cost for each tour is \$100 per person and includes admission fees, driver gratuity and lunch.

Tour #1 - Boots on the Ground Tour of Camp Tarawa sites - Waimea/Kamuela - Parker Ranch - Camp Drewes (Hapuna Beach)

Tour #2 - Pohakuloa Training Area, Hilo, Tsunami Museum - Hamakua Coast - Honoka'a (Honey Cow)

Tour #3 - Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park - St. Benedict's Painted Church - City of Refuge - Kilauea Military Camp - Visitor Center - Jaegar Museum

Schedule of Events

- Tue, Oct 17** - Arrival at hotel; registration; hospitality room open (3:00 pm-10:00 pm)
- Wed, Oct 18** - Day at your leisure; hospitality room open (noon-10:00 pm)
- Thu, Oct 19** - **Tour #1** - Departs hotel at 8:30 am and returns at 4:30 pm; hospitality room open (5:00 pm-10:00 pm)
- Fri, Oct 20** - **Tour #2** - Departs hotel at 8:30 am and returns at 4:30 pm; **Prime Rib/Seafood Buffet** (\$60 per person) at 5:30 pm; hospitality room open (5:00 pm-10:00 pm)
- Sat, Oct 21** - Business Meeting - 9:00 am
Memorial Service - 11:00 am
Cash Bar - 6:00 pm
Group Photograph - 6:30 pm
Banquet (\$60 per person) - 7:00 pm
- Sun, Oct 22** - Day at leisure; **Island Breeze Luau** (\$100 per person) at 5:30 pm; hospitality room open (noon-5:00 pm)
- Mon, Oct 23** - **Tour #3** - Departs hotel at 8:30 am and returns at 4:30 pm; hospitality room open (5:00 pm-10:00 pm)
- Tue, Oct 24** - Departures

Please return the Reunion Registration Form ASAP, so we know how many people to expect at the reunion.

Registration deadline is August 15, 2017.

{The form is on the next page, so please be sure to make a copy of the information you want to keep.}

FMDA 68th ANNUAL REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

October 17-24, 2017, in Kailua/Kona, Hawai'i

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

1. **Your name:** _____

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

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

(c) If you are not an Iwo Jima Veteran, or a relative of an Iwo Jima Veteran,
please indicate your affiliation with the FMDA. _____

2. **Your address:** _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

3. **Your email address:** _____ **phone #** _____

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

5. Indicate any dietary restrictions, disabilities, etc., that require accommodation.

6. Airline flight information, so we can provide hotel transportation, if possible.

Airline/flight/arrival date and time _____

Airline/flight/departure date and time _____

Cost Per Person:

	# of persons	total
1. Registration @ \$50 each	_____	\$ _____
2. Tour #1 Oct. 19 - Waimea @ \$100 each	_____	\$ _____
3. Tour #2 Oct. 20 - Hilo @ \$100 each	_____	\$ _____
4. Tour #3 Oct. 23 - Volcano @ \$100 each	_____	\$ _____
5. Prime Rib/Seafood Buffet Oct. 20 - @ \$60 each	_____	\$ _____
6. Banquet Dinner*/Dancing Oct. 21 - @ \$60 each	_____	\$ _____
7. Luau Oct. 22 - @ \$100 each	_____	\$ _____

Grand Total Enclosed: \$ _____

*Indicate meal choice(s) for Oct. 21 Banquet:

_____ *Poached mahi-mahi with lemon butter caper sauce, steamed rice, grilled garden vegetables*

_____ *Chicken breast char stir fry vegetables, fried rice, sweet chili butter sauce*

_____ *Portobello mushrooms stuffed with spinach risotto, parmesan cheese & grilled vegetables, tomato basil jus*

Deadline for registrations is August 15, 2017

Mail completed form and check/money order payable to FMDA to:

Kathy Painton
62-3928 Loli'i Pl. H1
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743



A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On behalf of all Marines, I am pleased to welcome the members of the 5th Marine Division Association as you gather to celebrate your 68th Annual Reunion. Your commitment to holding these gatherings is a testament to your dedication and faithfulness. As you get together this year, know that all Marines are grateful for and proud of your contributions to our Corps and our Nation.

Since its activation in 1943, the Marines of “The Spearhead Division” have repeatedly answered our Nation’s call. The Fighting Fifth earned a reputation for being honorable and tenacious warriors during the Battle of Iwo Jima. You carried on that legacy admirably during the Vietnam War. Each Marine who has served with this division understands firsthand the true meaning of “uncommon valor.” Your spirit of fidelity, selfless service, and sacrifice is, and will forever be, at the heart of our Corps’ success. We are proud to follow in your footsteps.

This reunion offers you a great opportunity to reflect on the storied history of our Corps and your division. Your fellow Marines join you in celebrating that heritage. Thank you for your service and Semper Fidelis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert B. Neller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert B. Neller
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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

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

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Zip: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

Mail to: 5th Marine Division Association
Ray Elliott, Secretary
2609 N. High Cross Rd.
Urbana, IL 61802
or email talespress@talespress.com

Date of birth (for Life Membership): _____

Dues (please check):

- () Annual \$ 25.00
- () Lifetime \$ 150.00
age 64 and under
- () Lifetime \$ 100.00
age 65 through 79
- () Lifetime \$ 50.00
age 80 and over
- () General Fund \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

(Make checks payable to: 5th Marine Division Assn.)