

July 2021



The Spearhead News

Official Newsletter of the Fifth Marine Division Association

Editor: Tom Huffhines with Member Contributors

Website - <https://5thmardiv.org>

Social Media - <https://www.facebook.com/SpearheadDivision>



Next Reunion Date— 2ND WEEK IN MAY, 2022
FMIDA's 72nd REUNION WILL BE HELD in SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE
JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER. OORAH!!!



(Leighton Willhite, Ivan Hammond, Alfred Jennings, Don Graves, George Boutwell)

71st – Well Worth the Wait!!!!

Photos : Leonardo Flores, Karen Campbell, Sabre Middlekauff



Fifth Marine Division Association members and guests met in Arlington, Texas, in May for a Reunion that equaled all past meetings in quality if not in numbers.

The main focus was camaraderie, renewing old friendships, and making new friends. We were blessed with the attendance of five Iwo Jima vets, as well as nine Vietnam veterans. All gave the event a unanimous “thumbs up!”

(Reunion Report continued on page 4)





2021 Elected Officers

President - Tom Huffhines - thuffhines74@gmail.com

Vice Pres - Skip Werthmuller - usnskip1@aol.com

2021 Appointed Positions

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Secretary | Karen Campbell |
| Acting Treasurer | Tom Huffhines |
| Database Manager | Terrie Williams |
| Sgt-at-Arms | Morey Butler |
| Parliamentarian | Hal Campbell |
| Chaplain | Billy Joe Cawthron |
| Legal Officer | James Sargent |
| Historian | John Butler |
| Membership | Kathy Tinsley |
| Fund Raiser | TBD |
| Editor Newsletter | Tom Huffhines |
| Website Developer | James Dalman |
| Photographer | Leonardo Flores |
| War Souvenirs Return | Dan King |
| Reunion Journal/Program | Kath Butler |
| Reunion Publicity/Advertising | Ray Elliott |

2021 Trustees

Bill Rockey, Bonnie Haynes, John Butler, George Boutwell,
Bill Baumann, Valerie Leman, Bruce Hammond

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TRIBUTE OF HONOR
FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION
MEMORIAL DONATION



Honor the memory of someone special through a Memorial Donation to the Fifth Marine Division Association General Fund. The names of Memorial Honorees will be published in a future edition of *The Spearhead News*.

Please prepare this form, along with your donation of any amount, payable to FMDA, and mail to FMDA, P.O. Box 728, Weatherford, Texas 76086

FMDA is a 501c3, not-for-profit organization. An acknowledgment of your gift will be sent to you at your listed address, and if requested, an additional letter can be sent to the Honoree or his family without the dollar amount included. Please provide that information on the back of this copied form.

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

In Memory of:

Name _____

Rank _____

War served _____

Unit _____

KIA date or DOD if applicable _____

Relationship _____

Amount of donation _____

Messages from the President's Desk

Spearhead News Report

The twice-yearly newsletter, published in January and July, affords an avenue for keeping current communication with our members. A place to print minutes; financial, membership, and other reports; details of upcoming reunions; reports of reunions just held; as well as informative and compelling stories of 5th Marine Division Marines in action.

I am grateful for the support and good words of review for our past two "Kilroy" editions of SHN since FMDA was forced by finances to go "all volunteer." As editor, with our third edition, I would like to acknowledge the significant help received from other members. There have been many. Much obliged!

Website Report

The FMDA Website is a continuing project. When it is launched we will have a quality site, full of history of the 5th Marine Division and of the Association. James Dalman, a professional web designer who has close ties with the military, has generously volunteered to build the website. Stand-by for 5thmarinedivision.org !!!



Tom Huffhines, Editor
Spearhead News
PO Box 728
Weatherford, Texas 76086
thuffhines74@gmail.com
817-296-6487



(Reunion Report - continued from page 1)

Wednesday May 12th, **host Tom Huffhines** and **president Bruce Hammond** greeted incoming guests. The Arlington Sheraton was an excellent venue choice, offering a spacious hospitality room of individual round tables for small groups to gather and additional areas of tables for food and drinks, and for displays. These included books and journals, a USS Joe Rosenthal petition display, sales of merchandise, and posters of the agendas of upcoming meetings.

Thursday, two featured speakers in the Hospitality room brought insight into our history as well as entertainment. At 11:00 AM, author **Marc Liebman**, a combat Naval aviator who also served with the 7th Fleet Staff, spoke on “The Threat of North Korea,” stating that North Korea’s militant actions are used as part of an ongoing plan to distract the U.S. and her allies. The Chinese are waging war by theft of intellectual property, and by cultural warfare. Each year thousands of Chinese are sent to America to study. They also are opportunistic, using events like the pandemic to spread disinformation.

Author **Dan King** came at 3:00 PM and told of his experiences advising and giving authenticity for documentaries and movies, including Clint Eastwood’s “Letters from Iwo Jima” and the film “The Windtalkers.” The original script for the latter movie initially focused more on the Navajo, but the studio wanted bigger explosions and more killing of the enemy, so the movie changed direction.

King, who is a Japanese linguist and cultural expert, stated that if the Atomic Bomb had not been dropped, the Japanese would not have been able to surrender. The A-bomb gave them a way to surrender. Pre-war the Japanese government, the only source of information for citizens, depicted America and the West as racist monsters, set on destroying the Orient.



Friday events included a morning video and slide show introduction by **Jenifer Tooker** from the “Free to Be” organization. This nation-wide assembly program for middle and high school students is committed to inspiring patriotism in young people. It demonstrates how lucky we are to live in America, to have the privilege of freedom. Jenifer also graciously stayed the afternoon to help with the A/V system.

After lunch, **P.T. Brent**, a member of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association, enthusiastically encouraged all present to sign the petition to have a warship named after Joe Rosenthal, the civilian AP correspondent who took the iconic flag raising photograph on Mt Suribachi during the Battle for Iwo Jima. This drive would bring recognition not only to the man who took the most recognized of all WWII photographs, but would also honor the Marine Corps.

The afternoon continued with a video of the life of flag-raiser and hero Sgt. Mike Strank, who was born in Slovakia in 1919 on the Marine Corps birthday. **Dusan Hudec**, the director, was unable to attend as previously planned because of Covid related restrictions from his home country, but graciously allowed FMDA to utilize his documentary. The video used WWII footage as well as personal interviews from people who knew Strank personally.



Saturday morning's Memorial service, opened by President Hammond, was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by **Leonardo Flores**, who was omnipresent throughout the Reunion, taking photos for the newsletter and website. In the Marine spirit of "improvise, adapt, and overcome," host Tom Huffhines put on one of his many other "hats" and gave the invocation as the local MC League chaplain who had planned to assist with services, had been admitted into the hospital the night before with a viral infection. **Todd Overgard** read a moving rendition of Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn's eulogy at the 5th Marine Division Cemetery dedication on Iwo Jima in 1945. The reading of the Last Muster names by **Ray Elliott**, and ringing of the bell by secretary **Karen Campbell** as each name was read, preceded Taps and the Benediction.



Following the Memorial Service, president Bruce Hammond, in his tradition of unity and “still waters” led a smoothly run, non-contentious **Business Meeting**. After the 2019 Minutes were accepted, the Treasurer’s, Membership, Database, and Camp Tarawa Museum Reports were covered, as well as information on the now-volunteer *Spearhead News*, edited by Tom Huffhines. Bruce Hammond briefly reviewed information about the upcoming Website improvement, which had been covered in detail at a hospitality room presentation.



A major accomplishment was the adoption of the newly written bylaws, updating the 1999 version under which the Association had been operating. Sessions of explanation and Q&A discussions had been held Thursday and Friday in the Hospitality Room to allow for a full understanding of the bylaws changes. Also accomplished at the Business Meeting was the election of the 2022 president and vice president. **Tom Huffhines was nominated and**



elected to rotate up to President next year, and Skip Werthmuller became the new Vice President.

FMDA’s next reunion was voted to be in San Diego the 2nd week in May, just one year from the Texas reunion, and will be hosted by Kathy Tinsley with help from Julie and Brillo Licari, of the former West Coast Commemorative group.



Saturday afternoon saw many moving visitations of our Iwo and Vietnam vets with a group of **young Marines and corpsmen from Camp Pendleton** who were staying at the hotel as a home base for their local assignment of issuing Covid shots to the civilian population.



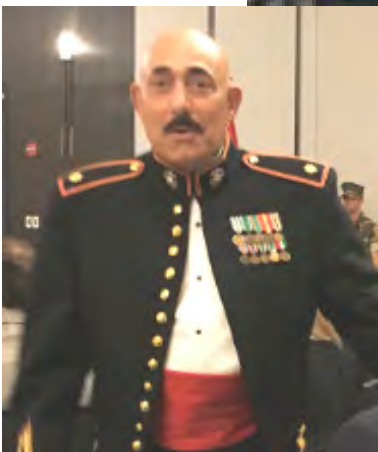
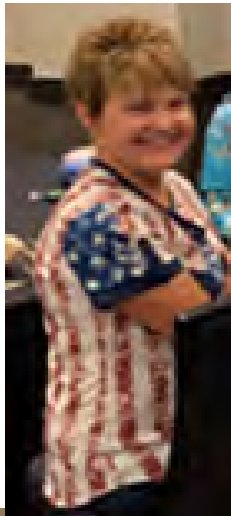


The Banquet Room Saturday night was full, with members and guests appreciating each other’s company and savoring a delicious banquet meal! **The highlight that followed dinner was a riveting speech by Col. Tony Woods on “The Exceptional Courage of Americans.”** Col. Woods had co-organized and orchestrated the civilian led evacuation of Saigon in 1975 that miraculously saved both American civilians and “at-risk” Vietnamese, even as the Communist North Vietnamese entered the city. This was the true story of “Operation Frequent Wind.” The reunion group present were privy to the confidential view of this historic and remarkable story occurring at the end of the Vietnam War.

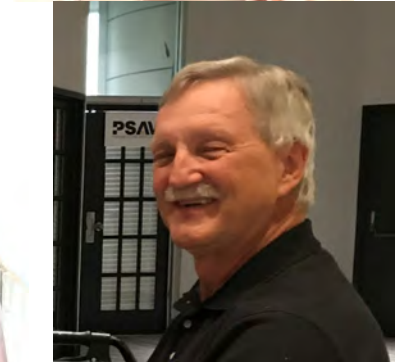
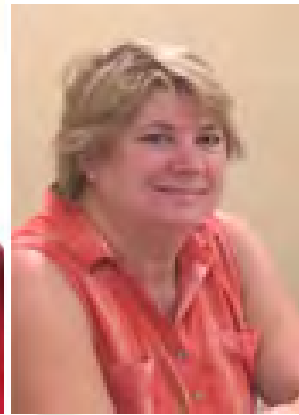
A fitting end to the Banquet was the benediction by Iwo Jima survivor **Don Graves** who then lead the room in a stirring rendition of “God Bless America.” **The Tarrant County Young Marines** who had posted the Colors, then retired the Colors. Dancing to the DJ “Grapevine” and of course more animated visiting followed dinner.



All in all the 71st reunion was an exceptional reunion - following the year of the 2020 cancellation due to Covid – and well worth the wait, with positive outlook and hope for the future of FMDA. Semper Fi







Thanks to all who made the 71st Reunion a resounding Success!!

To all members and guests who attended! With special thanks to the attending Iwo Jima veterans Ivan Hammond, George Boutwell, Al Jennings, Leighton Willhite, and Don Graves

To our presenters Marc Liebman, Dan King, Jenifer Tooker, and P.T. Brent! And Speaker Col Tony Woods!

To Dusan Husan for his outstanding "The Oath" documentary.

To Hospitality Room sponsors of food and drink: Steve Hawkins Custom Homes, Yazel Peebles Land

Surveying, JD Engineering, Dunaway Civil Engineers, Isacks Construction, & Iwo Jima Association of America.

To those members and guests who generously donated toward the support of FMDA

To Florence Curnett for her souvenir gifts of pens.

To Dave Boosinger for graciously picking up the cash bar tab for members.

To the Tarrant County Young Marines for the Color Guard detail

To the great Hotel Arlington Sheraton service, even forgiving the short-fall booking of reserved rooms

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

ANNUAL

George ALDEN, Dallas, TX

Teri CULBERTSON, Alexandria, VA

Raymond HOLZWART, St Pete, FL

Ed MAHONEY, Sun City Center, FL

David MARTINOSKY, Yuma, AZ

Warren E MASON, Meredith, NH

Sabre MIDDLEKAUFF, Loveland, CO

Jeff SIEKER, La Mesa, CA

LIFE

P.T. BRENT, Honolulu, HI

Laura DIETZ, Corona Del Mar, CA

Cheryl KOZAK, Burlington, IA

Brillo LICARI, La Mesa, CA

Juli LICARI, La Mesa, CA

William MORRIS, Elkhart, WV

Jim RANDLETT, Allen, TX

Donald L. STONE, Jr, Conroe, TX

Janet SZABO, Marietta, GA

Richard SZABO, Marietta, GA

Wiley VERSTAPPEN, New Orleans, LA

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2021

WARREN MUSCH



PAST PRESIDENT, TREASURER, REUNION HOST,
TRUSTEE, LONG-TIME ACTIVE FMDA MEMBER

Honorary Member Michael Naya interviews and visits with vets. Left to right: Michael with Craig Day, Vietnam veteran; Peter Migliorini and John Rembish, WWII veterans. Watch for upcoming articles from Michael.



FMDA ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES – MAY 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Hammond at 10:30 AM. President Hammond gave the invocation. Leonardo Flores led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes from the October 26, 2019, business meeting held at the FMDA reunion in New Orleans, LA, and later published in the January 2021 Spearhead Newsletter. Accordingly, a motion was made to accept the minutes and was approved by the membership.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Vice President Tom Huffhines gave a detailed report on the current financial status, the Corona Virus impact on the FMDA, and the need for more membership involvement in current and future fundraising efforts. Vice President Huffhines reported that he is involved in a potential fundraising performance to be held in Texas in July 2021. More details are coming. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and approved by the membership.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Kathy Tinsley gave a report on the current membership database.

2021 CURRENT DATABASE

2019 NOLA REUNION

| | | |
|-----|------------------|-----|
| 789 | TOTAL MEMBERSHIP | 896 |
| 676 | LIFE MEMBERS | 526 |
| 113 | ANNUJAL MEMBERS | 140 |
| 188 | MEMORIAL MEMBERS | 199 |
| 19 | HONORARY MEMBERS | 16 |
| 297 | IWO JIMA MEMBERS | 427 |
| 63 | VIETNAM MEMBERS | 39 |

Annual membership is encouraged to catch up on current and future dues. All members are needed to invite and spread the word about joining FMDA.

DATABASE REPORT: Presented by VP Tom Huffhines, the database has been brought up to date, but it still requires additional and continuous updating.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE REPORT: Discussed by VP Tom Huffhines, who encouraged the membership to send in news stories that would be of interest for the Spearhead Newsletter. He asked to please inform him if only an emailed copy of the Spearhead is wanted. Also, by receiving an emailed copy the Spearhead can be forwarded to other individuals, groups and organizations like VFW, Marine Corps League, etc., that might increase membership.

CAMP TARAWA MUSEUM VIDEO AND REPORT: The report, sent by Nicole Garcia from Hawaii was presented by VP Huffhines. Nicole and others tag, scan, document, store and display archival material. This includes establishing the Camp Tarawa Virtual Museum. Kathy Painton was able to explain the historical significance.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BYLAWS: President Hammond presented the proposed bylaws. The bylaws have been written and reviewed by two separate attorneys, including FMDA Legal Officer James Sargent and FMDA Board Director Valerie Leman. The membership discussed the bylaws, made a motion to accept the bylaws and the membership voted approval.

NEW BUSINESS: Nominations for officers were opened. Tom Huffhines was nominated to serve as president. There were no other nominations. A vote was held, and Tom Huffhines was elected to serve as president for 2021-2022.

Nominations for vice president were opened and Skip Werthmuller and Todd Overgard were both nominated. Todd Overgard declined. Skip Werthmuller was elected to serve as vice president for 2021-2022.

Nominations for the host/hostess for the 2022 Reunion were opened. Kathy Tinsley was nominated to host the reunion in May of 2022 in San Diego, CA. She accepted the nomination.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS: Ray Elliott read a message of appreciation from Dusan Hudek regarding the FMDA's interest in showing THE OATH documentary film. And, that he is preparing to begin a new DVD about Michael Strank's life and is requesting contacts from anyone interest in showing this new documentary once completed.

The General Business Meeting of the FMDA for 2021 was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Submitted by FMDA Secretary Karen Campbell

Financial Activity

| FMDA Financial Activity 2021 As of 5-28-2021 | | | | | FMDA Profit & Loss 2021 As of 5-28-2021 | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|-----------|--|---|--------------------------|
| Assets | | | | | Income | |
| Cash | | | | | Reunion Donations 1,500.00 | |
| | Chase Checking | 19,749.80 | | | Reunion Registrations 7,926.00 | |
| | Chase Savings | 4,000.54 | | | Donations 6,709.46 | |
| | Total Cash | 23,750.34 | 23,750.34 | | | Membership Dues 1,150.00 |
| Total Assets | | | 23,750.34 | | Interest Income 0.25 | |
| Liabilities | | | | | Gross Income 17,285.71 | |
| | Accounts Payable | 0.00 | | | Expenses | |
| Total Liabilities | | | 0.00 | | Bank Fees (8.00) | |
| Net Worth | | | 23,750.34 | | Reunion (14,139.37) | |
| | | | | | * Misc Expense (1,191.88) | |
| | | | | | State Fees (70.00) | |
| | | | | | Office Supplies (129.89) | |
| | | | | | PO Box rental (129.00) | |
| | | | | | Postage (728.05) | |
| | | | | | Printing (1,597.95) | |
| | | | | | Website Develop - | |
| | | | | | Database Update - | |
| | | | | | Total Expenses (17,994.14) | |
| | | | | | Net Income (708.43) | |
| | | | | | * Includes \$1,000 Camp Tarawa Museum extra computer work | |

Fundraisers

The American Soldier play – On July 1st and 2nd, FMDA sponsored a showing of Douglas Taurel’s one-man play based on actual letters written by veterans and their family members from the American Revolution through the war in Afghanistan. The two day showing at The Granbury Live Theater raised \$1,600 for the Association.

The Fifth Marine Division Association is not promoting Amazon. However, IF you do order from the giant company, **consider each time you shop, going to smile.amazon.com instead of the regular amazon.com.** Follow the directions for signing up, and type in “Fifth Marine Division Association” as your charity to support. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way to support FMDA at no cost to you. The prices and selection are exactly the same, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a small portion of the purchase price to FMDA. The percentage amount is small, but with repeated orders from many members and their families, the donation will add up.

Camp Tarawa Museum Update

By *Nicole Garcia*

North Hawai'i Heritage Foundation

(Right: The Historic Botelho building was a USO during the war. It is a highly visible location on the main street of Honoka'a where the men of the 5th Division went on liberty while training on the Big Island.)

This past year has been a difficult one as institutions, businesses and families have faced hardships due to the Covid-19 virus. The University of Hawai'i is just one of the many public Universities in the country to be impacted. UH has recently made decisions on their budgetary priorities, leaving the heritage center at Kō Education Center in limbo.

Fortunately members of the North Hawai'i community have formed a non-profit, the North Hawai'i Heritage Foundation (NHHF). The founding members are Dr. Ross Stephenson, a researcher and consultant who has worked to secure the nomination of several local buildings on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and Ryon Rickard whose great grandfather was a founding member of Honoka'a Town. Ryon has been a very active supporter of the heritage center at Kō since its beginning.

The NHHF took the opportunity this past couple of months to begin plans to open a new heritage center on the main street in Honoka'a, The Honoka'a Heritage Center. It will be home to exhibits, an archive room, visitor information and a gift shop. As a non-profit the new center will have the ability to fundraise, apply for additional grants, and sell merchandise. It will be operated by the same individuals who were a part of the heritage center at Kō Education Center: Dr. Momi Naughton, the coordinator of the heritage center, who has extensive curatorial background in museums and



heritage centers and myself, Nicole Garcia, a graduate student who has been mentored by Dr. Naughton for the past 5 ½ years and has been working with and archiving the Camp Tarawa Collection.

The Camp Tarawa Collection will continue to remain on loan from the Camp Tarawa Foundation, but the agreement will be with the new heritage center. The collection will be moved down to the new center and stored in the archive room within the next few months. Archives will continue to be accessible to the public and a new exhibit featuring the collection will be created. We will continue to work together with the Camp Tarawa Foundation to promote the collection and most importantly the heritage of the valiant Marines who trained on Hawai'i Island during World War II.

I feel that this is a very positive move and look forward to continuing my work with the Camp Tarawa Foundation and the Fifth Marine Division Association. ❖

Feel free to contact me for further details or questions.

Nicole808Garcia@gmail.com

HonokaaHeritageCenter@gmail.com

The Orange Heart Medal - by Michael T. Naya, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange Can Receive Heart Medal to Pay Recognition

As summertime approaches, we are looking ahead to celebrating Memorial Day, Independence Day and lastly Labor Day weekend. Despite that I cannot help on reflecting about all of those I have met over the years who served in the Vietnam War. This is especially relevant when on my frequent trip to Acme I recently saw two representatives of



VFW Post 2230 distributing Poppy Flowers in honor of those who have given their lives for our nation. One of these men wore a baseball cap embroidered, "Vietnam" with the engineer's logo on it. After meeting these two individuals I couldn't help but reflect on why these veterans are still often overlooked in our nation today.

Many of their fathers had served in World War II, their grandfathers in World War I, and sadly these men aspired to serve like their fathers had in the Second World War. They had grown up watching John Wayne and other heroic action-packed figures that could inspire any generation. Many of these men had enlisted or were drafted in order to serve their nation in one of the most controversial wars the U.S. has ever been involved in.

Meanwhile here at home protesters, outraged at the ongoing conflict, burned their draft cards, effigies, and the American flag in protest of American troops in Vietnam. America was officially fighting in an uncertain war. Was it right? Was it wrong? These men cared about America and those they had left behind and yet, upon their return home they were spit upon, disgraced and ultimately in many aspects of life shunned within American society.

Today, much emphasis has been put on honoring these men and women and correcting the mistakes of the past. Sadly, many of these Vietnam veterans have been passing away in recent years due to age related illnesses often caused in part due to exposure to Agent Orange. The Orange Heart Medal Project was founded in January 2018, in order to bring recognition for veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Agent Orange is a deadly chemical that was used by the United States armed forces during "Operation Ranch Hand" between 1961 to 1971 in order to defoliate jungle growth and deprive enemy troops and guerrilla forces of concealment.

The Orange Heart Medal foundation was founded by Ken Gamble who served in the United States Navy during the war. Any and all veterans exposed to Agent Orange wishing to receive the medal can apply for the medal online at <http://www.orangeheartmedal.org/>. Those wishing to learn more can contact Ken Gamble at kengamble68@gmail.com or (615) 973-5279. It is important to recognize those living today who served in the Vietnam War in the hope that their service will live on in the heart and minds of those for generations to come. ❖





The Vietnam Era M-16 Rifle

*The personal experience of FMDA Trustee Bill Baumann
regarding the problems associated with the original M-16 model.*

In the spring of 1967 I was with 1/26 on Hill 55 located south of Da Nang. I was assigned to attend a class regarding the new M16 rifle we were about to be issued.

During the class we were told that the new weapon had a multitude of advantages over the M14 we were currently issued. These included the much lighter weight and the fact that the smaller caliber (5.56) would allow the individual Marine to carry much more ammo. We were also told that the "boat tailed" bullet configuration would tumble upon impact making it a more devastating round. We were then taught to field strip the weapon. As I recall, the class was a one day orientation. I then returned to my company and taught a quick class on what I had learned. That was the extent of our training on the functioning of the rifle. I recall thinking that although more ammo could be carried, each rifle had automatic fire capabilities that would use up ammo at a faster rate.

Soon we turned in our M14's and were issued the M16. The rifles seemed to have been used which led me to believe that they had been previously issued to Army troops. I saw that the designation stamped on the rifles read XM16E1. I assumed that the "X" indicated that the weapons were experimental. All that did not set well with me. Shortly thereafter we convoyed to Khe Sanh where the Hill Fights had just occurred. When we arrived, I began to hear the horror stories about the malfunctions of the M16's that had caused the deaths of a number of Marines. It was said that their rifles had jammed and that they had been trying to remove jammed cartridge casings using cleaning rods. We all agreed that this would have never happened with the M14.

Soon we were told that the malfunctions were caused by the individual Marine's negligence. We did not buy into that observation. About that time WD40 had been invented. Guys started getting it from home. The substance, unlike oil, dissipated quickly and did not attract dirt. On a humorous note, one of our guys had a relative that worked for Mattel toys. He sent us small "Matty Mattel" stickers that we put on the plastic stocks of our weapons. Of course we were ordered to remove them.

Later in life I learned that a Congressional investigation had been held regarding the malfunctions of the early M16. Apparently the powder type was not suited for the rifle. Also, the chambers were not chromed and easily became corroded due to the weather conditions in Vietnam. Those deficiencies led to extraction problems causing the rifles to jam. Changes were made and the M16 became reliable. The accusation of individual Marines not properly cleaning their weapons was refuted.

My question is why in God's name would Marines be issued a new weapon without proper training and familiarization? Who within the government knew of the problems related to the powder type? Was the lack of chromed chambers simply a cost cutting move? Also, what politicians had financial interests in the ordinance manufacturing industry? We will never know.

All I know is that Marines were killed in action because the M16 rifle was faulty and the training regarding the weapon was virtually non-existent. We were basically told, "Here you go, boys. You're gonna love it." After the adoption of the rifle, recruits received extensive training in boot camp and ITR. We should have never been issued the weapon without benefit of that training.

As I previously stated, improvements were made that eventually made the M16 a reliable weapon. At our expense. ❖

(Right) Cpl Bill Baumann 1/26, H&S Company, Comm Platoon, attached to the 3rd Marine Division, Vietnam 1967.

Baumann was a radio operator assigned to line companies as needed. (After Khe Sanh, 1/26 moved south where they were attached to the 1st Marine Division.)

Photo was taken at Hill 55 on the day Baumann returned from M-16 Orientation Class in Da Nang. He is giving a comparison between the M14 on the left and the M16 on the right.



Additional Comments from John Butler:

I was not there by the time the M-16 was introduced into combat in Vietnam, but was well aware of these problems. In late 61/ early 62 the transition was made from the M-1 to the M-14, but not without some issues, mainly deflection of the flash suppressor, when in field use deflected the exiting round. But all issues were resolved under peacetime and training conditions. We also learned it was hard to extract magazines when worn on a cartridge belt while wearing a flak jacket. We discovered this with my rifle platoon, just before we were headed to a possible landing in Cuba in October 62. Like all Marines we improvised, adapted, and overcame.

Later in my Marine Corps career when I was an 81 mm mortar platoon commander I had experience with defective mortar rounds and wondered what crooked politicians in cahoots with suppliers made a tarnished buck on these rounds. Luckily the rounds were fired on a range at Camp Lejeune instead of a combat situation.

The M-16 should have been rigorously field tested at Camp Lejeune & Camp Pendleton before being issued to troops in Vietnam. In my book there is a special place in hell for those politicians & arms suppliers that short changed our troops. Our USMC leaders at the time should have demanded that the M-16 be fully field tested before issuing to Marines in Vietnam. Nothing the Army had or were using should have been considered. The truth should be heard even if it hurts. ❖

A Different Kind of War: Three of the 5th Marine Division's regiments served in Vietnam - the 26th, 27th and 13th Marines. They were attached to either the 1st or 3rd Marine Divisions. The 28th Marine Regiment served as an on-call unit at Pendleton. Fifth Division Battalions were often attached and as quickly detached to and from other Marine Regiments, and fought with Army or ARVIN units. Unit assignments in Vietnam were a game of checkers. They moved many miles by helicopter in an hour's notice. The Vietnam war was a different kind of fighting for the Marines. There were no front lines and no major, concrete objectives. The Marines would establish defensive perimeters around bases, cities, and airfields, and go on search and clear missions into the jungle against reported Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troop concentrations. ❖<http://www.5thmarinedivision.com/vietnam-overview.html>

USS JOE ROSENTHAL STALLED *(From an article by Ray Elliott)*

More than 75 years after Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took the iconic photograph of the second flag raising on Mount Suribachi during the Battle for Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945, an effort is underway to have a ship named after him. Unfortunately, that effort will be all the more difficult since learning that as much as \$200,000 may be required just to christen the ship before approval can be granted.

The 33-year-old photographer whose eyesight was too poor to serve in the Army as a military photographer barely made it in time to the top of Mount Suribachi to capture the larger flag being raised by the men of Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Regiment, 5th Marine Division.

He hastily stacked some rocks and hopped up on them beside Marine Sgt. Bill Genaust, who had a 16mm motion picture camera. Both men captured the second flag going up as the first one was coming down. Rosenthal snapped the shot with his bulky Speed Graphic camera. His photograph became an inspirational symbol for the war and fueled a wildly successful \$26 billion bond-raising tour that was instrumental in helping the United States continue on to victory against the Japanese. But long before the advent of digital photography that provides the image immediately, Rosenthal had no idea of the quality of the photo he had just taken and next took a photo of the Marines celebrating on the mountain and sent both films to Guam to be developed. The flag-raising photo was transmitted via radio to the States in time to appear two days later on the front pages of Sunday newspapers across the country. When Rosenthal got back to Guam later, he was asked if the photo had been posed. Thinking he was being asked about the “Gung-ho” photograph, Rosenthal replied “yes.” That mix-up caused controversy for years, even though Genaust’s motion picture film provided verification that Rosenthal’s photo had not been staged.

S/Sgt. Norman Hatch, a movie combat photographer who had taken footage during the battle of Tarawa and was in charge of the Marine cameramen on Iwo Jima, was able to guarantee that the Marine Corps could use the flag raising image forever without payment. After he left Iwo Jima with Genaust’s film, he met in Washington with the Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Alexander Vandergrift, and Time-Life and Associated Press executives where he gave proof that Rosenthal’s photo was legitimate. As a result, the general asked the AP for permission to use it. The general was offered two duplicate negatives and every print would cost the Marine Corps a dollar. Hatch hadn’t yet seen the military-owned film by Genaust to know if there actually was a similar image to be taken from it. But Hatch bluffed and said they could pull a still image from the film and “blow that up to 8x10 inches and make a print.” He said they might lose some definition, but the Marine Corps would own the footage and there would be no need to pay. As a result, the AP gave the negative to the Marine Corps and the permission to use it “in perpetuity.” Hatch later said he had no idea at the time if Genaust’s film was “ruined, scratched, underexposed or damaged.”

Rosenthal was already a successful photographer and had covered several campaigns in the Pacific with the Marines. He was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for the flag-raising photograph, which cemented his reputation and career. While his photo is regarded as the most important photo of WWII, possibly the most famous of all war photographs, Rosenthal’s name began to fade from public view after the war ended. Two U.S. postage stamps showed off his photo but didn’t use his name. It was the model for a Felix de Weldon sculpture in Arlington Ridge Park, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery, dedicated in 1954. And de Weldon’s bronze memorial in Arlington did not bear Rosenthal’s name until 1982, when it was added as an afterthought, 28 years after the dedication. Today the massive bronze statue based on the photo sits alongside Arlington Cemetery where thousands who helped save the country, many of them World War II veterans, lie in repose

Given the historical significance and impact of Rosenthal’s work, a group of media photographers, videographers and journalists in the Fellowship of the Lens Educational Foundation are determined to honor Rosenthal’s accomplishments and those of other combat journalists. They have been petitioning the U.S. Secretary of the Navy to name a warship after the photographer. They have invited people to sign the petition at USSJoe.org, and signatures have been added from all over the world. Plans were going well and the group was optimistic when they learned about the additional money that was required. The amount is likely too big for the small group to come up with. Sadly, all the efforts to date may not be enough to get a ship named in Rosenthal’s honor.

What a shame that an honor for the man whose photo was instrumental in winning the war against Japan has been stalled by red tape and a hefty price tag. ❖



More about the effort to name a US Navy war ship after Joe Rosenthal

from Tom Graves, Chapter Historian, USMC Combat Correspondents Association

Email: Tom@tomgraves.com Phone: 415-860-7241

Sign the petition at USSJoe.org or LensFellows.org

"By virtue of his photo's role in raising \$26.3 billion for the near-bankrupt nation, Joe Rosenthal contributed more to the war effort than practically any other American civilian. The same could be said for the photo lifting the morale of the American Public which was suffering from war fatigue.

"Joe was on the front lines with the US Marines during four amphibious landings in the Pacific. Unlike some other correspondents, Joe photographed shoulder to shoulder with the Marines. They had their rifles while Joe had only his camera. At 33 years old, he volunteered for this combat assignment, in fact, made it a condition of working for the Associated Press.

"The Corps made him an Honorary Marine, an honor he held higher than all others.

"After 76 years, Rosenthal's photo still symbolizes the US Marine Corps and the determination of Marines to their mission. It is a symbol recognized around the world.

"There is a lot of leeway in choosing names for ships. Other civilians have been honored with their names on Navy ships. Even 'Congress'—not a person, not a hero—is being honored with a ship's name.

"While the photo is well known, Rosenthal's name is not. A ship with his name on it will sail for decades, and each time its name is mentioned, the Public will be reminded of the man who honored this country and the US Marines with his photograph. This will help promulgate the role of the Marines in our country's determined fight in WWII, and keep the important lessons of our values and sacrifices front and center.

"By honoring Rosenthal with a ship, the Navy and the nation will be remembering and honoring the Marines on Iwo Jima in 1945, and all Americans who served this country and those who serve it today." ❖

Omaha Community Honors Duane Tunnyhill

(Adapted from WOWT broadcast article by Brandon Tvrdy and from the Purple Heart Magazine)

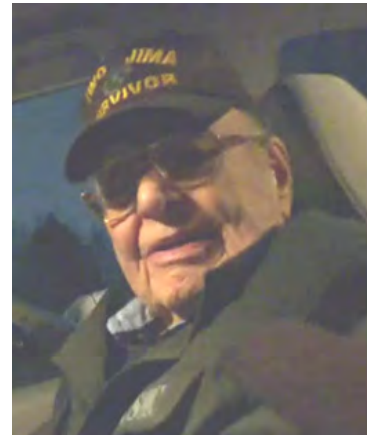


FMDA member and Iwo Jima survivor Duane Tunnyhill celebrated his 95th birthday this past January sitting in his nice warm car in his driveway while many neighbors and friends drove by on the snowy Nebraska streets. They honked their horns, shouted birthday greetings, and brought gifts for him.

Many were veterans themselves. It's a brotherhood Tunnyhill says he will always be grateful for. "I tend to like my Marine buddies. I'm really proud of them."

From his boyhood in Omaha, Tunnyhill wanted nothing more than to be a Marine. When he turned 17 in 1943, he begged his parents to let him enlist. His parents wanted him to wait but finally relented and signed the papers just before his 18th birthday. The young Marine fought in only one battle, but it was a big one: the Battle of Iwo Jima. "I credit that battle with making a man out of me," Tunnyhill said. "You had to learn to do things on your own, and you had to do it fast."

Tunnyhill's WWII service was with the 5th Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 28th Marines. He went ashore on Green Beach near the foot of Mt Suribachi. Later, in an attack on a Japanese held valley, Tunnyhill was wounded in his legs by shrapnel and spent 10 days in a field hospital before returning to the battle. After the end of the war, he spent six months on Occupation Duty near Sasebo, Japan, then left the Marine Corps in June 1946 to return to his home in Nebraska. He has since remained active in veterans' organizations, and is an officer in the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, an organization of combat-wounded veterans. ❖



Dad Parachuted into Mom's Heart



By Dave Boosinger

My father, Richard C. Boosinger, was born Easter Sunday 4 April 1920, and grew up in Youngstown, Ohio. Graduating East High School in 1938, he went to work for his father in a sheet metal shop. Following Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Marine Corps on 3 January 1942.

After completing boot camp at Parris Island, he was assigned to the 1st Marine Division. Prior to their departure for Guadalcanal, he was re-assigned to a barrage balloon battalion, as he had experience as a tradesman. This did not sit well with Dad. He volunteered for the Paramarines. Completing the rigorous training, he was accepted into the Paramarines, and stationed at New River, North Carolina. Physical conditioning and more training followed. In all, Dad made 19 training jumps as a Paramarine.

Sometime in July of 1943, most of the 33 officers and 727 enlisted men were transferred to Camp Pendleton, California, to strengthen the newly formed 4th Marine Parachute Battalion. At some point, for practical purposes, the 4th was disbanded and absorbed into the then forming 5th Marine Division. Dad humorously recalled how they were informed that they had "volunteered" for a machine gun battalion. Formerly a Paramarine, Dad was now a

Platoon Sgt. training to fight as a machine gunner

This was where he met Sgt. Steve Michuelich, who was to become his best friend in the Corps. An orphan, he had enlisted in the Marines in 1932 at the age of 15. A veteran of Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester, Dad referred to him as "a real pro".

My mother, Barbara Russell, was born 11 July 1925, and grew up in Long Beach, California. She attended Fremont High School, graduating in 1943. She stated that on weekends, she and her girlfriends would go to Pershing Square on 6th street in downtown Los Angeles, as it was a hub of activity. This was where she met my father. She noticed him getting off a bus loaded with Marines going on liberty, and counting them as they left the bus. He noticed her, and offered to buy her an ice cream cone. They agreed to meet there the following month for Dad's next liberty.



As a young child I remember my mother describing to me how she and Dad met a second time. She stated that she was in the bathtub, and Dad jumped out of an airplane during a training exercise and landed on her roof! She thought that meeting a second time, particularly like

that, was a sign that this was meant to be!!!

And that was that. They continued to date until Dad left California for training in Hawaii, and ultimately Iwo Jima. By the time of his departure they were engaged to be married.

Dad was now at Camp Tarawa, on the island of Oahu in Hawaii, training with his fellow Marines for the invasion of Iwo Jima. He lived in a tent there with three other Sergeants in his outfit, A / 1 / 27. There was Sgt. Schloegel, a combat veteran, Sgt. Joseph R. Julian, and his friend Sgt. Steve Michuelich. They departed Hawaii shortly after New Year 1945 for the invasion of Iwo.

A / 1 / 27 landed at Red Beach on Iwo 19 Feb. 1945 in the first wave. Sadly, all three of my father's buddies on Iwo were KIA. Dad witnessed their deaths on three separate occasions.

Sgt. Schloegel was the first. Caught in an exposed forward position, he was shot through the throat. Dad crawled out and pulled him into a shell hole, dead.

Sgt. Joseph Julian was killed 9 March in an attack on fortified Japanese positions. Dad stated that he talked with him approximately two minutes before his death. Julian was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously for his actions on that day.

Sgt. Michuelich was the last to go. He died 14 March in the gorge in front of Kitano Point. Shot through both lungs, he was bleeding out as Dad attempted to help him.

At this point, Dad was shot through the right shoulder blade, removing most of it. Next thing he knew, a corpsman was kneeling on his back under fire, sewing it up as best he could. He came to on a hospital ship lying on his stomach. The surgeon who examined him stated "Who the hell did that? ", and proceeded to remove all the stitches and start over. Dad said he did not sleep on his back for over five years after that. After 14 March A / 1 / 27 ceased to exist as combat effective. Decimated by death and casualties, the survivors were farmed out to other outfits.

As machine gunners, both Sgt. Michuelich and my father carried pistols on Iwo. Dad a .45 semi-automatic, and Steve a .45 revolver. Sgt. Michuelich being dead, and Dad badly wounded, and not needing them further, someone who was there at the fight in the gorge removed them. Believe it or not, in 1950, at Dad's parents' house in Youngstown, Ohio, a package arrived. No name, no return address, no mention where it came from. In it were both pistols, complete with web belts and holsters. My father's still had his compass attached. Both are in my possession to this day. Hats off to whoever returned them.

Dad went from Iwo to a hospital on Guam, to Hawaii, San Francisco, and finally, to a Naval Hospital in Asbury Park, New Jersey. He was there nine months. Mom moved nearby to be with him. Released from the hospital, they returned to California, and were married at City Hall, San Francisco, complete with a Marine Honor Guard, Dad was honorably discharged 14 January 1946. They moved to Youngstown, Ohio, where they spent the rest of their lives. Both were devoted to each other. Dad passed 14 October 1987. Mom never re-married.

She often stated to me that Dad was a hard act to follow. Mom passed 11 July, 2011. Neither one ever forgot the war, nor got over its repercussions.

A great deal of this information was related to me by my mother after my father's death. Dad, for his part, wrote a journal a year prior to his passing. In it were the details of the three Sergeants' deaths.

As he got older, he talked more and more about Iwo. The entire time I was privileged to know him, Iwo was always there. He repeatedly stated how the other three Sergeants helped keep him alive, as they were all combat vets, and he was a "cherry". Always said he was lucky, and that their luck had simply "run out". He stated that he liked to think that Sgt. Julian's Congressional Medal of Honor was for all concerned in A / 1 / 27. All were fine men. And they deserve to be remembered as such. ❖

TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



STEVE LOPARDO
Past FMDA legal officer;
Legacy Member, son of Iwo Survivor
1st Lt Fiorenzo Lopardo
(Honored by John Butler.)



TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



SGT ALBIN NELSON
5th Tank BN on Iwo Jima
3 War Veteran
(Honored by Robert & Cheryl Kozak- Daughter)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Sgt MONROE OZMENT
HQ-2-28 Iwo Survivor
And FMDA Officer & Trustee**

(Honored by Tom Huffhines)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Pfc ROBERT L. ORZECOWSKI
HQ Co, 3rd BN, 26th Reg, 5th MarDiv**

(Honored by Robert Orzechowski, son)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Cpl ROBERT PAUL JACOBS
Military Police 2-28**

(Honored by Katrina Jecroix, daughter)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Sgt ROBERT M BARRY
5th Division 27th Regiment**

(Honored by Paul Barry, son)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Sgt CLYDE W JENNINGS
2nd BN, 9th Marine Reg, 3rd MarDiv**

(Honored by Alfred W Jennings, brother)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Sgt RICHARD CHARLES BOOSINGER
Platoon Sergeant
A Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Regiment**

(Honored by David Richard Boosinger, son)



Brothers Meet on Iwo Jima – 1945 - by Alfred Jennings

(Any veteran who has eaten C or K rations will find this story especially meaningful!)

It was the first or second week of March, 1945 on Iwo Jima. I, Alfred W. Jennings, I-Company, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines, 5th Division and my older brother, Clyde W. Jennings, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Division, were both on Iwo Jima at the same time. Both of our units were off of the lines for a rest. I asked for permission to go see if I could find my brother. The 9th Marines was on our right side, next to my unit.



I found my brother's buddy in their foxhole. He told me to stay and wait, Clyde was there someplace. While we were waiting, he said, "Let's eat your brother's peaches; he was saving them for a special day." We opened the can of peaches and were sitting there enjoying them when Clyde came back; he had been out looking for me. The first thing he saw was four big feet and his can of peaches. We were in the foxhole, under a shelter-half. Clyde yelled out, "Who the Hell is eating my peaches?" I answered back, "Who in Hell cares?" When he saw it was me, (the kid brother), everything was O.K.

We visited about 30 minutes, then I had to return to my own unit. After the battle was over, we both left Iwo Jima; neither of us received any injuries. Our oldest brother, Travis L. Jennings was a Medic in the Army and was stationed in the South Pacific while we were on Iwo Jima. He did not get injured either. ❖

Come Now the Angels: a Novel of War and Love - Reviewed by John Butler



by Susan Kummernes ; 323 pages; Historical Fiction; Available at Amazon or www.susankummernes.com **100% of proceeds go to Vietnam Veterans of America**

There are many books, fiction and non-fiction, written about the war in Vietnam. Some have made it to film and contribute to contemporary views about the war which coincided with a transformational era in American Society. Kummernes's book, more than any other that I have read on Vietnam, captures this transformation and the impact on five outstanding Marine brothers who experience brutal infantry combat with North Vietnamese regulars around and near Con Thien, also known as the Hill of Angels.

The author misses nothing in her book, especially the brotherhood of her fictional five Marines in a machine gun squad. Her book brings a woman's perspective with the loves and families of these men. We also experience the war from the Vietnamese perspective and the horrific impact it had on their society and culture which was terribly changed forever by our efforts and presence in their nation during this troubled time. We see all of this through the eyes of a fictional Vietnamese woman who rescues, cares for, and falls in love with one of these Marines. She later goes on to work as a nurse in a Naval hospital and suffers horrific death at the hands of Thai pirates while escaping from Vietnam in the aftermath of the US abandoning the nation we went to help.

Come Now the Angels is a page turner which will play heavy on your heart. Kummernes's Marines for the most part came to age in a Norman Rockwell America then went to Vietnam to endure heavy combat in '67 and came home to the age of drugs, war protests, and other societal changes. For those who experienced those years and events, or loved someone who did, it is a must read. ❖

SOCS 400 *(submitted by Valerie Leman)*

Special Officer Candidate School

My late father, Craig B. Leman (H-3-26), the late Louis Lepore, Lt. Col. USMC (A-1-27), and Bill Johnson (B-1-27) were 5th Marine Division Association members and classmates in the Special Officer Candidate School (SOCS), which was a unique form of officer training for rifle platoon leaders. Conducted in 1944, it utilized a “need-to-know,” condensed combat format of instruction that omitted officer training material that would only have been pertinent in theaters other than the Pacific. It was necessitated because the severe casualty rates among USMC junior officers in several Pacific campaigns from 1943-1944 (the Solomons, Tarawa, the Marshalls, and the Marianas) demanded their immediate replacement. However, the only USMC Officer Candidate School (at Quantico, Virginia) lacked the capacity needed at the time. To fill the gap, the Special Officer Candidate School (SOCS) was created at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to commission new second lieutenants.



Most members of the SOCS started out as college student volunteers in the reserve in late 1942 through early 1943. They were trained by Marine drill instructors associated with the Navy V-12 program. Beginning in July 1943, they were sent to boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, where they amazed their new DIs who had never seen “boots” who already knew how to act like Marines. At graduation, each became a PFC and was sent to Camp Lejeune. There they joined a unit of over 1600 other officer candidate applicants. In July 1944, 430 of them were selected for the SOCS and began rigorous field training by NCO and officer survivors of earlier Pacific campaigns, who hammered into their students’ heads, “Lead! Lead! Lead!! That’s what you’re paid for!”

After 11 weeks of intensive training, some of the class washed out and returned to PFC status, but 373 of them graduated as second lieutenants on 30 September 1944. The SOCS program was then disbanded and they were the only officers ever to be commissioned in that way.

Leman recalled, “Roughly half of us went to Iwo Jima, half to Okinawa. 48 of us were killed and 153 wounded. Some of us joined and trained with assault units before they landed; others joined shore party and supply units for their first few days of combat, and then were transferred to depleted assault units as 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 ten of us were killed or wounded.” SOCS class members earned 61 battle citations, including 6 Navy Crosses, 16 Silver Stars and 27 Bronze Stars. At least 265 Purple Hearts were received.

The SOCS training had created strong bonds with classmates. Before leaving for Iwo, Leman made a pact with three of his classmates that if any of them were killed, the survivor would visit the bereaved families after the war to tell them about their son. Leman did so for two of his classmates who were killed in action, Clarence Louviere and Bill Lowell. Except for those recovering from wounds, all of the SOCS members were discharged in 1946. Many returned to active duty as reserve first lieutenants in Korea.

According to Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak (former G-3 of the Sixth Marine Division on Okinawa in 1945), "It was the finest class of second lieutenants that the Marine Corps has ever produced." Their self-image was not elitist but they radiated confidence, both in themselves and in their training. ❖

[Sources: Article about SOCS from the journal "JFC" (Joint Forces Command), supplied by Lou Lepore in 2017, Craig Leman's personal recollections, and material from the book *We Few: The Marine Corps 400 in the War Against Japan*, by James R. Dickensen, Naval Institute Press 2001]



Iwo Shore Party - Coast Guard photo that was printed in *Life Magazine*. Lt Craig Leman is just to the left of the Marine with his back to camera, whose rifle is slung over his back. Lt Leman is facing one of his squad leaders who is carrying two boxes.

This D+3, Red Beach2 photo titled Supplies Pour onto Iwo Jima Beachhead has the statement: " Out of the gaping mouths of Coast Guard-manned and Navy Landing Craft rose the great flow of invasion supplies to the blackened sands of Iwo Jima, a few hours after the Marines had wrested their foothold on the vital island in the front yard of Tokyo. Under raking fire from emplacements concealed at each end of Futatsune Beach, the early waves secured a beachhead but suffered heavy casualties."

Additional information provided by Craig Leman: "The landing force was already several hundred yards inland, but the beach was under intense artillery and mortar fire for the next few days. We had our units dig foxholes near the water's edge. When landing craft beached and put down their ramps, our men went aboard and unloaded the cargo as rapidly as possible so the boats could back off. The currents were fierce and the surf often rough, so that, even aside from the frequent shell explosions, it was difficult dangerous work. The boats often broached—were carried up by the waves and current and stranded sideways on the beach. When this happened, they became obstructions to other landing craft. If a larger boat was not available to tow the stranded boat out to sea, the engineers blew it up, giving us more flying metal to dodge." ❖

In Memory of Diane Kuebler - "Seabee Gal"



FMDA lost a wonderful friend, long-time contributor, and staunch supporter with the passing on Nov 15, 2020, of Diane Kuebler, after fighting a ten month valiant battle with glioblastoma, diagnosed earlier last year. She had recently retired after serving over 40 years in Massachusetts General Hospital as a Cytotechnologist. During her working years, Diane served in several elected positions for the Massachusetts Cytology Society and Histotechnology Society.

Her passion was researching Seabee involvement during WWII, especially on Iwo Jima where her father served in the Navy's 31st Construction Battalion as a Seabee. She made two trips to Iwo Jima with a military travel group, spoke to reunion groups and at symposiums regarding the Seabees' activity on Iwo Jima and other South Pacific locations. For many years, she corresponded with numerous veterans and others she met during her travels around the country giving her talks.

Fascinated with World War II as a child, she decided as a six-year old to go everywhere her Dad had served in the war: Bermuda, Hawaii, Saipan, Tinian, Eniwetok, and Iwo Jima. She accomplished this and along the way became a Seabees expert and champion, interviewing many veterans and digging out information from deep within the Naval archives. Also, with her partner Tom Sommer, Diane participated with war reenactment groups in New England and other areas portraying a nurse in WWI and WWII.

Diane will truly be missed.

Final Muster - Roll Call of the Reef

| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Kristo APOSTEL, Corpsman | 5 th Med-28 | Norwell, MA | DOD 7/11/2020 |
| CPO Lesley B CAMPBELL, USN | MCPO Navy | Sparks, NV | DOD 6/18/2017 |
| Martin CONNOR | HQ 1-26 | Syracuse, NY | DOD 12/4/2020 |
| CWO Samuel J. JONES | HQ-3-28 | Piggott, AR | DOD 8/23/2020 |
| Earl Wm KENDRICK, MD | B-1-28 | Los Alamitos, CA | DOD 9/4/2003 |
| Anthony LECHNIAK | A-5thEngr | Oakland, NJ | DOD 1/3/2021 |
| Charles MENZIES | B-1-26 | Brentwood, TN | DOD 6/7/2020 |
| Albin NELSON Jr | 5 th Tank | Burlington, IA | DOD 11/25/2020 |
| Frank J. PONTISSO | C-1-28 | Des Moines, IA | DOD 11/17/2020 |
| Sal PRESTIGIACOMO | C-1-26 | Newport Bch, CA | DOD 1/11/2021 |
| Vincent VIRGILLITO | L-4-13 | Fairview, NJ | DOD 12/25/2013 |

UNBELIEVABLE CONTRIBUTION

(Submitted by John Ratomski)

We of the Marine Corps know first-hand, perhaps better than anyone else, the almost unbelievable contribution that the Seabees have made to victory.

Many times we have fought side by side in the early stages of battle, before there was room for you to proceed with your assigned construction projects. While we pressed farther inland, you laid aside your arms--but not too far away --to pick up your working tools and build highways, airports, supply depots and innumerable other projects, It was a comforting thought to know as we pushed the enemy back that you were right behind us with your bulldozers and your tractors, your graders and your power shovels, guaranteeing us roads to bring up our supplies and ammunition, and to return our wounded, and airports for our planes to use in supporting our troops and in pushing the attack.

During the interludes between operations, fortunate indeed was the unit that was located near a Construction Battalion. Then, the more peaceful pursuits of erecting a flagpole, repairing a watch, were child's play at the hands of the Seabees. The Marines who have fought together with you against the Japanese will never forget the support you have given us unfailingly from Guadalcanal to Tokyo. The bond of fellowship between Marines and Seabees, forged by the heat of battle, is one which I am sure will last as long as there are veterans of these organizations left to recount firsthand experiences of the many hard-won battles of the war.

On behalf of all Marines in the Pacific, I want to extend my Thank You, and Well Done!

ROY S. GEIGER, Lieutenant General, U.S.M.C., Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific

The spirit of brotherhood existing between the Marines and the Seabees was forged in the holocaust of battle. Perhaps I can sum up this in these few words. "THE SEABEES NEVER LET US DOWN".

H.M. SMITH, Lieutenant General U.S. Marine Corps

The Seabee motto is, "Born to Build, Trained to Fight"

(Reprinted from Diane Kuebler's Booklet "31st Naval Construction Battalion - Iwo Jima 1945")

More than 325,000 men served with the Seabees in World War II, fighting and building on six continents and more than 300 islands in the Pacific. On Iwo Jima there were 269 Seabee casualties, with 51 KIA. As they worked, they were under constant deadly fire from Japanese snipers, enemy mortar and artillery.

Seabees built and maintained airfields. Work was on-going 7 days a week on 12 hour shifts to accomplish a rapid completion of an up-to-standard airstrip. The 62nd CB, attached to the V Amphibious Corps, the 133rd CB, attached to the 4th Division, and the 31st CB, attached to the 5th Division, worked to repair the extensive damage to the Motoyama Airfields and to build extensions on the landing strips

Seabees built roads, including the serpentine road up Mt Suribachi. The Marines did not want just a trail; they wanted a two-lane roadway, 35 feet wide and nearly a mile long, with no grade over 10 per cent. Suribachi would serve our offense as the place to locate a weather observation post and the best place to locate our main radar station. The Suribachi Highway was the best known, but other roads were built, too. To link the various activities on Iwo Jima, 20 miles of primary and 40 miles of secondary roads were constructed.

Seabees constructed monuments on Iwo, as well as the cemeteries for each Division. Pre-painted wooden crosses and slab-like markers were put together and stenciled with each dead man's name. Seabee carpenters used the wood from empty mortar cases to build picket fences, which were painted white to outline the cemeteries and stonemasons laid stone arches from the ample supply of Iwo's boulders.

And fresh water purifying units, fresh water wells, water tanks, tent cities, supply yards, airstrip towers, post offices, galleys, electric shops, lighting systems, generator systems.... And more...

"SEABEES CAN SHOOT"

(contributed by John Ratomski)



When the U.S. Marines stormed ashore at Iwo-Jima, the Seabees swarmed with them, armed and ready to fight, if needed.

In the early days of the assault there was no opportunity for the Seabees to fight. They were too busy handling materials, supplying the men on the line, and doing whatever construction could be done under fire. Although they didn't have time to shoot back, they were shot at. Mortar shells and small-arms fire rained incessantly on the beachhead area. As the fierce fighting left the beaches and Motoyama airfield was wrested from the Japs, the Seabees moved in behind the lines. Frequently they had to move their bulldozers and earth-moving equipment from the area because of enemy fire. No place was secure. They worked-- and took it. But they got their chances at the Japs after the battle lines were pushed back far from their construction projects; that is, as far as they could be on an island that was only five miles long and about half as wide.

It was then that the Seabees showed they could shoot! Tactics reminiscent of Indian fighting days were brought into use. The men went to work in the inevitable green uniform, wearing helmets and carrying carbines and other weapons. On every project "Up North" as the boys termed the central portion of the island, it was necessary to post sharpshooting guards. The survey crews kept an armed guard with the transit man and each rodman. The M1 carbine was a favorite weapon because of its portability, fire power, and effectiveness at the short ranges at which the enemy was encountered.



Bulldozers were busy pushing the rough terrain into usable areas. Suitable space was needed for air strips, for camps, and for roads. Sentinels were stationed at vantage points to protect the equipment operators, the oilers, and the other men in the work details. The Japs that had not been killed when the Marines mopped up the last pockets of resistance crawled into the maze of tunnels and caves that hollowed the central and northern portions of the island. From the caves they fought with fanatical fervor and with the finesse of an intelligent enemy. The terrain favored their passive defense. The need for water and food brought nocturnal forays that kept the camp guards busy.

One night, long after D-Day, Seabees spotted a thin veil of steam coming out of a cave less than 100 yards from two battalion guard posts. A few minutes later, a trip flare was kicked off and there were Japs. Instantly, a hail of Seabee fire was directed at the cave dwellers. "I grabbed a tommy gun and started spraying the hillside," said Calvin E. Broady SF1. "Those Nips began ducking behind rocks or anything else they could find." Norman L. Baker, CM3 was in the guard post adjacent to Broady. "The first thing I knew was the flare going off and Broady yelling, 'There's one over there, and another one and another one-- Christ there must be a thousand of 'em.'" "It sounded like D-Day all over again," added Baker. After the trip flares burned out, the Sergeant of the Guard came up behind the dugout and fired some parachute flares. We saw a Nip try to hide in an oil barrel that had the head knocked out of it. Next morning we examined the barrel and it was a sieve, so was the Jap!

Some of the caves became unbearably hot from the underground temperatures when the entrance is closed. This time, nature was on the side of the Seabees. Apparently the Japs had not realized that on opening the entrance to the cave, steam came seeping out of the hot ground. It gave them away before the flares were tripped

Marines were still patrolling a section where one of the construction battalions was busy building the battalion camp. Someone suggested that the battlewise Marines divide their nightly ambushes and guard posts with Seabee camp outposts. This was done. After three or four nights, in which combined efforts netted several dead Japs, the Seabees were on their own. The coaching and seasoning were excellent, for the Seabees soon performed like veterans.

Getting Japs was a nightly occurrence. But the biggest thrill was capturing twelve prisoners. Robert P. Hopkins CM2 said, "It was about an hour after daylight. The Marines had secured their posts and left for chow. We were getting ready to return to our bivouac for breakfast when I saw a movement behind a rock. I fired a quick shot but didn't connect. A minute or so later a white flag was struck up over the crest of the ridge. We flanked the ridge with another group of guards and asked for the flag waiver to come out. The flag bearer came out, followed by others in single file. We made them take off all their clothes so they couldn't hide hand grenades. Next we searched their clothing and then let them dress before we loaded them on the truck. The driver took us by the Marines bivouac so we could show them what they had missed. The Marines looked at us with amazement. One of the veterans said, "Hell you Seabees don't need us around anymore."

Surveying roads, camp boundaries, and pipe lines brought the most opportunities for contact with the enemy. Each rock, each gulley or draw, each cave opening was a potential hiding place for a Jap. One "CB" camp is named in honor of a member of their survey crew killed while running the traverse for their camp site. LT (jg) Hiram H. "Fuzzy" Farnsworth CEC U.S. Naval Reserve, of Las Cruces, N.M., was in charge of the party. On that particular day, Farnsworth demonstrated that his Expert score with the carbine and the two sharpshooter qualifications with the Springfield and .45 caliber pistol were no fakes.

"We were running a traverse control that crossed deep ravines, which were full of brush and caves. All morning we had struggled through and over this type of terrain. We were on the alert and kept two men as lookouts on each side of the line. Also, we had one guard follow about fifteen yards behind the crew so that we would not be attacked from the rear," said Farnsworth. "About three o'clock in the afternoon we were moving up to a new transit point when I heard an explosion behind me. I whirled, thinking that one of the men had stepped on a mine. Instead, one of the men had been hit by a hand grenade thrown from a slit trench in a draw. A Jap moved in the trench and I fired two shots into his head with my carbine. At the same time another started running down the draw. I knocked him down. At that moment two hand grenades were thrown toward me by three Japs farther down the ravine. I ducked from the grenades and emptied my

clip through the brush at them. That ended the fight. When it was all over, I found that it lasted only about ten or fifteen seconds."

There was one organized banzai attack after Iwo was secured. The path of the attack stopped at the edge of camp where a battalion, which had just reached the island, was bivouacked. For two or three hours it was a real initiation for the newcomers. "It was hardly daylight when the charge started," said Richard C. Webster, CM2. "I was on watch and, the first thing I knew, there was shooting all around me. It was being done by some Marines waiting to go aboard ship, and by some Army groups. I did a lot of shooting, too. When it was all over, there were ten dead Japs in one shell hole not far from my post."

Seabees are more noted for their building than for their shooting, but they do both, One enterprising Bee, mounted a light-machine gun in the body of a dump truck. He jockeyed the truck around where he had a good view of the area for frontal fire. For two or three nights he found enough targets to keep interest but, as the Japs thinned out, he let boys in their dugout guard posts take over. Perhaps the Japs became suspicious of the vehicle.

Seabees did more than build bases in route to Tokyo. They demonstrated they could protect themselves, and fight when needed, as well as construct airfields. They used all of the various types of small arms a construction battalion carries. Seabees are a versatile organization; they are sharpshooters with carbines, Thompson sub-machine guns, and machine guns, as well as experts with their famous bulldozers. On Iwo-Jima they proved that "Seabees Can Shoot" as well as build. ❖



WWII Corsair Pilot Major Ray Holzwart USMCR (Ret) - by Kent Dozark

FMDA members Kent Dozark and John Butler met 98 year old Ray Holzwart at a Marine Corps Birthday party in Tampa, FL. He was the oldest Marine present and got the first slice of the birthday cake per tradition.

Every Marine infantryman cheers when one of the Corps' own planes flies overhead. This was especially true on Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and other Pacific WWII islands, where specialized Close Air Support of troops was vital.

Holzwart, a native of Chicago, is from a large family of 6 kids...3 sisters and 2 brothers. He was in a gym waiting for a basketball game to start, when he heard the announcement that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. Ray, only 19, joined the military in May of '42 through the Navy's V5 program and was sworn in at the famous Chicago Board of Trade Building by University of Chicago's Jay Berwanger, the first Heisman Trophy winner! Ray always wanted to fly and after Navy pilot training at Cherry Point, N.C., he was commissioned on July 16, 1943. Given a choice of service branch, he requested the Marine Corps.



(Above: Holzwart in the cockpit of his Corsair)

The new Lieutenant spent 21 days on a LST going to Okinawa from the Marshall Islands and was in route to that invasion when Iwo Jima was being fought.

On Okinawa, his Air Wing flew out of Yontan Airfield, which had been taken on the first day of battle.

Asked what his fondest memory was out of his whole experience in WWII, he replied, "Knowing I had a Guardian Angel in life." He remembers five significant incidents of "close-calls."

1. "While waiting to take off early before daylight on a mission, a Japanese fighter came in low for a strafing run. At the last moment, he had to clear an embankment at the end of the runway and by pulling up all of his rounds went over our heads and planes."

2. "One night, a Japanese bomber, being chased by a Marine night fighter, released his Anti-Personnel bombs above us. Fortunately, due to the low height, the bombs did not have enough time to arm and detonate!"

3. "I was on the airstrip putting my navigation plot into my plane when a Japanese bomber flying from Kyushu came over and dropped bombs on the runway.... I ran for cover behind an embankment.... If a bomb had landed there, it would have been all over because I ran to the area where 100 gallon gas tanks were stored."

4. "On a mission to Taiwan with six planes in formation over the China Sea, two of our planes exploded because of malfunctions on bombs they were carrying.... All other planes had to drop ordinances and head home. "

5. "We were raided by Jap bombers at night on the 4th of July on Okinawa. We had to quickly get to shelter. We were living in tents at the time. When the raid was over we returned to our quarters. Daylight revealed multiple holes in our

tent from shrapnel. My mosquito netting was burned and my cot's wooden frame had been broken by an unexploded 20 MM shell. I took it to our armorer as I planned to keep it as a souvenir. He took one look at it and said NO WAY as it was a high incendiary round!!"



In the "War Room" of his home, Major Holzwart has a model collection of the planes he flew during his service in the Marine Corps. (Left to right: the PBY seaplane, the Spearman trainer, the Cougar jet, and the Grumman F9F Panther jet (which he says was the most fun to fly) He flew both jets as a Reserve Officer.



(Left: The F4U Corsair) Ray flew the Corsair during the Battle of Okinawa and said of its durability: "That baby brought you home!"

After the end of WWII, Holzwart returned to civilian life, but stayed active in the Marine Reserves until 1961. His unit was not called up during the Korean War.

The Corsair initially was armed with six .50 cal. machine guns. A later model (F4U-1C) was outfitted with four 20 millimeter M2 cannons. The plane could also carry eight Tiny Tim rockets under the wings.

The single-seat fighter aircraft exceeded 400 mph at level flight. It was renowned for its speed, ruggedness, and firepower: the Corsair excelled in aerial combat and as a vital "mudfighter" in support of ground troops. The inverted gull wings gave the aircraft an unmistakably recognizable face when viewed head-on, and were designed to provide ground clearance for the massive 13 foot propeller. The design also combined to produce an unmistakable sound: the Japanese called the plane "whistling death."



In the beginning, there were problems with landing the Corsair on a carrier. The British solved this in '43 by adding a spoiler to the left wing leading edge and fixing the brake problem so the plane would not nose-over on landing. They raised the seat so the pilot could see over the long nose of the craft. By the time Holzwart flew in battle, the planes took off from a carrier and landed on Yontan Airfield which had been taken from the enemy on D-Day, April 1, 1945.

Holzwart was with the 3rd Marine Air Wing, Marine Air Group 31. He flew both CAS (Close Air Support) and CAP (Combat Air Patrol) missions. During one of the CAPs at 10,000 feet, Holzwart dove unseen by the enemy to intercept and shoot down two kamikaze planes that were targeting the battleship California which lay half a mile offshore Okinawa, lobbing 16" shells into enemy positions. He was able to come in behind both a "Tony" (similar to the German Messerschmitt) and a "Val" dive bomber (similar to the German Stuka) and take off their wings, crashing the enemy planes into the sea.

❖

Marines Cheered When the Corsairs Flew Overhead

*First Sgt John Farritor, who passed away in 2020 at the age of 100, pointed to a Corsair at the Flying Leathernecks Museum in San Diego and said, “**That’s the reason I am alive today.**” At the Chosin Reservoir, the Corsairs provided close ground support for the surrounded Marines as they pulled back from attacking Chinese Divisions. Farritor said the planes flew so low, he could see the pilots’ faces. ❖ (Contributed by Kent Dozark)*



Corsairs flying off fast carriers remained off Iwo Jima for the first three days of the battle, supplying expert close support, with the planes’ bellies just above the beaches.

Monument on Mt Suribachi

(Contributed by Bonnie Haynes)

The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force stationed in Okinawa has taken on the responsibility for regular maintenance of the iconic symbol of the 5th Division’s capture of Mt Suribachi. Thanks to Gen. Norm Smith, IJAA, a plan is now in place so that the monument at the site of Joe Rosenthal’s famous photo will never again fall into disrepair. ❖



“The Iwo Jima Sisters” – A social group of Legacy women formed to honor their loved ones and travel together for events on WWII, the US Marine Corps, and Iwo Jima. Their next planned event is a meeting in Hawaii to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7th.



The Annual FMDA Reunions bring together families from around the county who otherwise would not get to know each other. Members form close ties and friendships with the common link of their loved ones lost in the Battle of Iwo Jima, or forever changed by those 36 days.

(Left: in San Diego March 2021 Aboard the USS Midway)

Left to right: Wiley Verstappen (LA) Honorary Member, Jimmy Hyde Watson (LA) Brother KIA Iwo Jima, Cheryl Kozak (IA) Father fought on Iwo, Kathy Tinsley (CA) Father fought on Iwo, Nora Gardiner (CA) Father fought on Iwo, Barb Allen (AZ) Father-in-law fought on Iwo. Not pictured: Kathy Painton (HI) Father KIA Iwo Jima, and Cheryl Mach (CO) Father fought on Iwo. ❖

New Honorary Members

JOHN RATOMSKI, Seabee historian for WW2. Created and consulted on the Seabee episode of War Stories with Oliver North. Helped Compile the Book "Black Hell," the 133rd Naval Construction Battalion at Iwo-Jima. Campaigned for the 133rd Naval CB with their quest to receive the Presidential Unit Citation for Iwo-Jima. WW2 Pacific theater history buff. Corresponded with WW2 Seabees and Marines.

WILEY VERSTAPPEN has been an active supporter of FMDA even before planning began in late 2018 for the New Orleans Reunion. She had donated money and support for the Camp Tarawa Museum in Hawaii. Her Verstappen Family Foundation generously booked and donated the appearance of a 17 member band to play at the 2019 banquet. In addition, Wiley supplied a room in her French Quarters B&B for collecting and packaging the reunion gift bags, drove around the city collecting those gifts, and helped in many other ways with the reunion.

ANDREW BOOHER is a senior at Michigan State University whose passion for U.S. military history has led him to research Marine Corps topics including the stories of 5th Marine Division flag raisers. Having already been in contact with Dr Jim Sledge, relative of Eugene Sledge and boyhood friend of Boots Thomas, and Bill Beigel, published historical researcher on WWII, Korea, and Vietnam casualties, Andrew located FMDA contacts and is working on developing more information on both Charles Lindberg and Harold Schrier



Archeologist and historian Jennings Bunn and his friend Joyce Johns continue to honor **Boots Thomas** by bringing flowers and flags and maintaining his grave in Monticello, Florida.

TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



CPL MATTHEW "AL" COZZI
B-1-28th 5th Div Iwo Jima & Bougainville 3rd Div
(Honored by Karen Cozzi Campbell- Daughter)

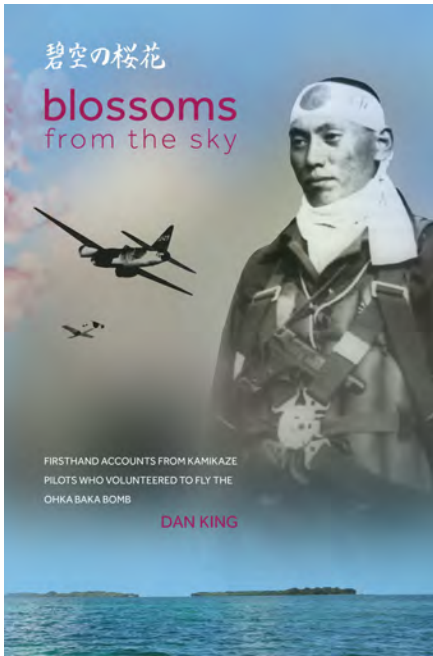


TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



2ND LT CRAIG B. LEMAN
H-3-26
(Honored by Valerie Leman- Daughter)





Blossoms from the Sky *by Dan King*

True stories of the Ohka "Baka Bomb" kamikaze

Amazon, paperback - \$24.99 - Over 200 photos from the veterans, maps, and illustrations. (Signed copies available from the author at PO Box 121, Rockwall, TX 75087 for FDMA members \$22+\$5 Shipping)

"BLOSSOMS FROM THE SKY - in a book that was eleven years in the making, through in-person interviews with surviving pilots and bomber crewmen, author Dan King tells the true stories of the Japanese pilots who volunteered to fly a mysterious secret weapon known by the code name, 'MXY-7 *Marudai*.' Also learn about the challenges faced by the design engineers, and the production process of the Japanese Navy's rocket-powered, human-guided, flying bomb.

Pilots who volunteered for the 721st Naval Air Group were told only that the Top Secret aircraft could sink an enemy aircraft carrier, or battleship, with a single blow, and that they would not survive a successful mission.

The aircraft was later given the poetic name 'Ohka' which means 'Cherry Blossom.' The Kamikaze pilots were viewed as the physical manifestation of a cherry blossom that once falls, may never return to the branch. The American pilots and ships' crews that encountered the Ohka gave it names such as Viper, Gizmo, Gadget, Torpedo with Wings, etc...before the US Navy officially settled on the moniker "Baka Bomb." One of the most famous Kamikaze who was trained to fly the "Baka Bomb" later crashed a Zero into the USS *Missouri*.

TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



CPL JOHN F HUFFHINES

HS-3-13 Iwo Survivor
(Honored by Mary Huffhines,
Tom Huffhines, and Terri Williams)



We Can Do It!

Our Association and our reunions have wrought abundant friendships and fellowship. We gratefully remember our World War II veterans, cherishing both those who live with us, and those who have passed on, yet live within us. FMDA will honor the last wishes of MajGen Fred Haynes, USMC (Ret), by continuing to exist. Too many veterans' organizations have folded. FMDA should remain.

STRONG MEMBERSHIP = STRONG FMDA

Annual memberships are due for renewal by Dec. 31 each year. If you have not renewed your membership, please send in your \$25 dues today.

We Can Do It!

Double your impact by finding a new member to join, too!

Use the Membership Form on the back page of this issue.

By mounting an active membership registration program, we can revitalize our organization, instead of passively allowing our numbers to shrink. Marines are not passive, and we should not be passive, either! Even as FMDA has achieved great things in the past, I believe we can still do so by swelling our membership rolls. *Semper Fidelis, Bruce Hammond, 2020 President FMDA, Currently on Board of Directors*

Notices

1 Future editions of *Spearhead News* will continue to be sent electronically to all members who have an email address on file. All members who do not opt-out will also continue to have print newsletters mailed to them twice a year, in January and in July. Members who ***do not*** also choose to receive a printed copy in the mail, please opt out of our mailing list by sending an email to thuffhines74@gmail.com with the subject "SHN Choice." In the body of the message please state "Email only" and sign your full name along with your email address. The entire electronic version, or selected articles, can be printed out in color on home printers. Sending only electronic copies to those members who so choose will lower our printing costs, so please do take the time to inform the SHN editor if you do not want to have a printed copy mailed.

2 Please also help the Association update its database by sending your current email to the editor if you did not receive the electronic version of the *Spearhead News*. That would indicate either we did not have an e-address listed for you or we had an outdated email address.

3. A reminder: Bereaved family members of Japanese war dead find the return of any souvenir very significant. They deeply appreciate and welcome the return of any article that belonged to their family member who died in WWII. To request information for returning war souvenirs, contact Dan King at squidninja2000@yahoo.com

4. LOOKING FOR CONTACTS FROM FRIENDS OF RELATIVE ---- Any Iwo Survivor who served in the 26th Marines on Iwo Jima & knew PFC Robert Dwayne Swanger, severely WIA on 9 March, 1945, please contact his cousin. We would greatly appreciate contact from Bob's former Marine friends. Please phone Cliff Schroeder at (651)-302-2966, or email at Schroeder111075@yahoo.com. Thanks so much; our family looks forward to hearing from you!!

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Kathy Jenkins Hightower in January 2021. Kathy and her family had been staunch supporters of the 5th MarDiv Association for years. Her father, Dr William Jenkins, an Iwo Jima survivor, mother Louise, and brother Bill had long attended reunions. They have all now gone to "guard the streets of heaven."



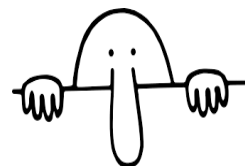
Photo # NH 96011 USS Samuel B. Roberts at sea, October 1944

Adred Lenoir, the last survivor of the DE-413 USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS in the battle of Samar, at the Leyte Gulf, will have his 98th birthday on Nov 9th 2021. Adred enjoys getting birthday cards from around the country. His address is 1756 County Rd 461, Clanton, AL 35046

KILROY SAYS

The Second Week in May 2022

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5th Marine Division Association - Membership and Donation Form

Mail to: 5th Marine Division Association, P.O. Box 728, Weatherford, TX 76086

All annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time. (Make checks payable to FMDA)

New Annual or Life Membership () or Renewal of Annual Membership ()

Iwo Vet () Vietnam Vet () Div. _____ Platoon _____ Co. _____ Bn _____ Reg. _____

Legacy () Name & rank of Veteran _____

Vet's Div. _____ Co. _____ Bn. _____ Reg. _____ Your Relationship _____

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() New Lifetime (Age 64 & under)... \$150

() New Lifetime (Age 65-79)\$100

() New Lifetime (Age 80 & over).....\$ 50

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