

January 2021



# *The Spearhead News*

*Official Newsletter of the Fifth Marine Division Association*

*Editor: Tom Huffhines with Member Contributors*

*Website: Under Construction*

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



71st FMDA REUNION - DALLAS, TEXAS MAY 12-16, 2021

## “The Oath”

“The Oath” is an outstanding documentary that depicts the leadership and courage of Mount Suribachi flag raiser Michael Strank. It will be shown at the Sheraton Arlington Hotel for FMDA members and the general public during the 71<sup>st</sup> Reunion in Dallas

Independent Slovakian filmmaker Dusan Hudec spent four years researching for this film. He located and interviewed the last surviving veterans who knew Strank personally, and who fought with him on Bougainville and on Iwo Jima. The film documents the combat experiences they all shared. Hudec combed the National Archives for battle footage which he effectively blended with the personal interviews of the Marines who had served with Strank and looked up to him as a Marine leader, and as a man.

A Slovakian language version of the documentary was aired on Slovakian Television in 2017. Two years later an English language version premiered in Johnstown PA where Strank grew up and at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington D.C.

Hudec said, “Strank and his generation of Marines could be an inspiration for us more than any time before because they personalize men of integrity, honesty, fidelity and self-sacrifice.” The producer hopes the film will inspire young Slovaks to think about patriotism, which he thinks has been destroyed because of the lack of genuine role models in his country with whom they can identify and be proud of.

**“Mike Strank represents the nameless heroes,” Hudec said, “the young men who disappeared without a trace in the whirlwind of war, which would probably have happened to him as well, but the fate decided differently. The fate chose him to participate in the raising of the American flag at the top of Mount Suribachi. By the time this happened, thousands of soldiers had to die in the battles.”**

*(Right: l to r: Slovak Republic Ambassador Ivan Korcok, Ray Elliott, director Dusan Hudec, and Doug Meny) Elliott and Meny represented the 5th Marine Division Association and joined the approximately 50 people at the Slovakian Embassy for the premier of the English version of “The Oath.”*



(cont. page 3, The Oath)



Founding President 1949 - Gen Keller E Rockey

**2021 Elected Officers**

President ...Bruce Hammond [caphambone@yahoo.com](mailto:caphambone@yahoo.com)  
281-435-8517

Vice Pres... Tom Huffhines [thuffhines74@gmail.com](mailto:thuffhines74@gmail.com)  
817-296-6487

**2021 Appointed Positions**

- Secretary..... Karen Campbell
- Treasurer .....Tom Huffhines, Acting Treasurer
- Database Mgr ..... 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
- Webmaster ..... Bruce Hammond
- Photographer..... Leonardo Flores
- War Souvenirs ..... Dan King

**2020 Trustees**

Bill Rockey, Bonnie Haynes, John Butler, Warren Musch,  
George Boutwell, Bill Baumann, Valerie Leman

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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*.

A designated acknowledgment of your gift can be sent (without indicating the amount of the donation,) and you will receive a copy.

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.

**Your name**

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

War served \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

KIA if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you wish acknowledgment

(The Oath cont from pg 1)

Hudec thought the story of the Slovakian immigrant and what he brought to the American way of life was something worth preserving and remembering.

In the documentary, the men who knew Strank brought him to life through their stories of how he treated his men and how they respected him. One of his men said, *“We always, all of us, looked up to Mike. Nobody would even have tried to oppose him. He was a forceful guy, a thorough guy, never took advantage of anybody, and you wanted to listen to Mike because Mike knew his business. I’m sure I’m a better guy, a better Marine, because of my association with him.”* His old Easy Company commander on Iwo Jima, Col Dave Severance, said, *“He was a Marine the men would listen to and follow wherever he led them.”* ♦

(Compiled from previous Spearhead News articles.)

**Sergeant Michael Strank** was born in 1919 on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> (the USMC birthday) in a small village in Czechoslovakia, and at three years old immigrated with his parents to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where his father worked in the coal mines. At home his father employed the Old World discipline system of shared responsibility. When the depression hit and his father lost his job, Mike joined the CCC, which further exposed him to a military-like regime complete with camp life, discipline, and camaraderie.

In 1939 after reading of the atrocities of Hitler’s Nazi Germany, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and had assignments on both coasts and at Guantánamo Bay. In September 1942, he was transferred to the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion and fit perfectly into their style of fighting as well their focus on brotherhood and shared responsibility.

**With the Raiders, he participated in the landing operations and occupation of Pavuvu Island in the Russell Islands and took part in the Battle of Bougainville. When Marine Raider units were disbanded Strank was assigned to the newly formed 5<sup>th</sup> Division as a squad leader in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, 28th Marines, at Camp Pendleton He was sent to Hawaii with his unit for more extensive training and preparation for the invasion of Iwo Jima.**



On Iwo Jima, he was given the order to climb Mount Suribachi to lay telephone wire with his squad. About halfway up the mountain, his group was joined by another Marine who was carrying a larger flag to the summit to replace the smaller one which had been raised earlier in the day. Upon reaching the summit, Strank took the flag, and explained to Lt Harold Schrier that "Colonel Johnson wants this big flag run up high so every son of a bitch on this whole cruddy island can see it." On March 1, Strank tragically was killed by friendly artillery fire from an offshore American ship. Sgt Mike Strank’s squad idolized the charismatic leader who used humor and a calming presence with his men, whom he promised to “bring home to their mothers.” ☐



**Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) each time you shop on Amazon (instead of the regular amazon.com) Follow directions for signing up, and type in “Fifth Marine Division Association” as your charity to support.** *“AmazonSmile is an*

*automatic way to support FMDA every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you’ll find the exact shopping experience as Amazon.com, and Amazon will donate to FMDA”*





Left: Ivan Hammond and John Huffhines confer at the 2014 Reunion in Tampa

Today their sons Bruce Hammond and Tom Huffhines lead the Fifth Marine Division Association

The 71st Annual Reunion is being held in 2021, with the COVID virus having caused the cancellation of its original 2020 date. In only one other year, 1950, due to the outbreak of the Korean War, has there not been an annual reunion of the Fifth Marine Division Association since its founding in 1949.

## Message from Editor Tom Huffhines

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! Our hopes and prayers have been that you and your family have remained safe and well throughout these past months of the COVID pandemic.

It is very important to hold our reunion this coming Spring and not postpone it further. Our reunions provide opportunities among like-minded comrades to reconcile memories of war. These kinds of opportunities usually are not found in any other groups of people, many times including family groups.

The venue for the upcoming FMDA reunion in May, 2021 was changed to the Sheraton Arlington primarily in order to take advantage of very fairly priced larger meeting rooms. We certainly hope COVID 19 will be an after-thought by the time of our reunion date, however it was felt that providing a larger, more spread out table arrangement for the Hospitality Room would be a prudent decision. The hotel's "Hall of Fame" room will allow us to more safely enjoy three fulfilling days of visiting and renewing valuable friendships, hearing distinguished speakers and presentations, and then a fourth day for our annual Memorial Service and General Business Meeting.

See you in Arlington, Texas!!

For decades America's young people have taken their country, their freedom, and their way of life for granted. If this continues they are destined to lose it all... *Free to Be* solves this critical problem. We tackle it head-on, school by school. We go directly into the schools, in person, eye to eye and heart to heart with the students - and their teachers - with the message that matters... *the most important class of their lives.*

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# Program: Reunion Speakers and Presenters At the Banquet and in the Hospitality Room

Schedules of presentation times will be in Registration Packets.

“The Oath” will be presented on site at the hotel the afternoon of Friday May 14<sup>th</sup>

The large Hospitality Room will enable space for members to renew old friendships and to meet and get to know one another better. It will be open from 9 AM to 10 PM from arrival day, Wed. May 12<sup>th</sup> through Fri. May 14<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Memorial Service will be followed by the Business Meeting in the morning. The Banquet will be held that evening.

Snacks and drinks will be provided in the Hospitality Room each day.

Colonel Tony Wood  
USMC Warfighting School



Thomas Begay  
Navajo CodeTalker



Captain Marc Liebman Naval  
Helicopter pilot & author



Bruce Hammond  
FDA President



Dan King  
Japanese linguist, historian,  
author, technical advisor



Tom Huffhines, VP  
Q&A session on bylaws



Nicole Garcia  
Camp Tarawa Museum



John Powell  
Vietnam Helicopter  
Association



Dusan Hudec  
Documentary Producer



# 71<sup>st</sup> Reunion Site: Sheraton Arlington Hotel

1500 Convention Center Drive - Arlington, Texas 76011 USA - 1 817-261-8200



The Sheraton Arlington is located in the Entertainment District near famous North Texas attractions. It is conveniently located approximately 12 ½ miles from Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) International Airport 21 miles from Dallas Love Field (DAL)

The hotel has free parking, a full service Business Center, Free Wi-Fi, a 24/7 fitness center with Cardio Equipment and free-weights, an outdoor pool open daily, a whirlpool, and a jogging fitness trail.

An on-site restaurant, the Parkside Bar & Grill. is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner casual dining. There is also a Market Place Convenience Store for grab-and-go foods

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## Opportunity to get together at heart of reunion

*Excerpts from Fall/Winter 2018 Spearhead News article of the same title by Vanessa Faurie*

*It seems if you just bring everyone together in one place and provide a big enough hospitality room, you will have a successful Fifth Marine Division Association reunion.*

*After all, the opportunity to get together, swap stories, reminisce, share a meal, make new connections, and honor heroes and patriots now gone is really at the heart of each year's gathering.*

*Clearly, all those associated with FMDA reunions appreciate the privilege of spending time with the Fifth Division veterans in attendance. And clearly, there are fewer of them who are able to travel to the gatherings as each year passes. But the curiosity to know more about the Division's history and the camaraderie forming among the families seems only to grow. And the memories endure because the generations continue to reunite and carry on. ❖*

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## A SPECIAL THANKS

**Sincere thanks to James Dalman, professional web designer**, who has stepped up and rescued our languishing FMDA website. His stated goal is to keep honoring our veterans. James's volunteering to organize, update, and finish the website is a tremendous help to FMDA. Standby to see the new rebuilt site, with news and history of the Association as well as history of the Fifth Marine Division.

**Go to: <http://5thMarineDivision.org>**

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## SEMPER FI ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**to Mr. Don L. Pero of Rochester, NY and to the reunion group "Last Gasp of A Company," 5<sup>th</sup> ENGR, FMD.** They have chosen to disband and have graciously forwarded their final account funds of \$1,095.74 to the FMDA General Account.





## Financial Activity through September 2020

FMDA Financial Activity 2020 As of 9-30-2020		
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash		
Chase Checking	20,458.48	
Chase Savings	4,000.29	
PNC	(0.00)	
Total Cash	24,458.77	24,458.77
<b>Total Assets</b>		24,458.77
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	1,440.00	
Total Liabilities	1,440.00	1,440.00
<b>Net Worth</b>		23,018.77
1) \$2,440 immediate on commitment to Camp Tarawa Foundation		

FMDA Profit & Loss 2020 As of 9-30-2020	
<b>Income</b>	
Donations	4,895.74
Membership Dues	1,905.00
Interest Income	0.29
<b>Gross Income</b>	6,801.03
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank Fees	40.00
Misc Expense	-
Office Supplies	-
Postage	1,960.74
Printing	4,030.32
Website Develop	98.74
Database Update	979.08
<b>Total Expenses</b>	7,108.88
<b>Net Income</b>	(307.85)

## Camp Tarawa Museum Report

***“Unfortunately progress on the online museum has been pretty much non-existent due to the closure of the Heritage Center. Hawai’i has been very strict about the virus and since we are part of the University, it’s been even more so. I hope people will understand why there has been such a delay,” reported Museum Team Leader Nicole Garcia in late September.***

The Center was closed to the public in early March 2020 due to COVID 19 and neither Nicole, who has been working on tagging and scanning documents, archiving materials, and organizing displays for over two years, or the newly hired digital graphic specialist, has been able to access materials for these past seven months. Prior to the shut-down, the digital specialist had a bit more than 1/3 of the collection scanned. The images are scanned at high resolution and a lower resolution so that they can be saved in multiple locations and formats. Nicole had received the necessary archival quality supplies (storage containers, newspaper folders, acid free manila folders, acid free tissue paper etc.) and will move items to those as soon as possible. Fortunately she was able to get 90% of the photos into the appropriate archival photo sleeves and boxes before the pandemic so that they are currently properly stored.

We are very fortunate to have Nicole Garcia lead an outstanding team to make the long-awaited Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center a reality in the near future, with the anticipated launch of the virtual museum.

The Fifth Marine Division Association has long been one of the major contributors to the Camp Tarawa Museum, both financially and in soliciting and collecting artifacts, stories, and photos to include in the museum. Materials from the 5<sup>th</sup> Division include through the Occupation of Japan and disbandment of the division. The museum will also house documents from the 5<sup>th</sup> MarDiv Association, which was founded just four years after the war ended. Original materials from all collections will remain in Hawaii and will be available to view at the Heritage Center in Honoka’a upon request.

Presently, Camp Tarawa Foundation funds are available to complete the work of putting all of currently held artifacts online. The projected time line for completion of the initial phase has been given as 4 to 5 months, once the Coronavirus restrictions allow for reopening of the Heritage Center to the staff working on the museum documents. .

# FMDA's Three-War Veterans

## who fought on Iwo Jima, in Korea, and in Vietnam.



The Association would like to give special recognition to our four members who are career Marines that fought in all three major conflicts of the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Following are Newspaper articles on each of these extraordinary men, published in their hometown papers. Please note the date on each reprint.

### **Gunner Sam Jones**

On Iwo Jima – 81 MM mortar platoon and later rifleman in “I” company 3/28

In Korea – Forward observer for 81 mm mortar platoon, 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment at the Chosin Reservoir

In Vietnam – 1<sup>st</sup> Combined Action Group in Tam Ky area during Tet Offense. Expert in M-16 rifle and dispatched to troubleshoot reported malfunctions & jams of the weapon

*Gunner Jones was a distinguished member of the Marine Corps Rifle & Pistol Team, shooting a score over 2,600 in a National Rifle Association pistol tournament.*

*Sam Jones now lives in his hometown, near his daughter Barbara Jones, who recently moved to Piggott Arkansas to be near him. His son, Samuel Jones, Jr, was also a career Marine and served in Vietnam. Together they have all attended FMDA reunions.*

### **Sgt Major George Boutwell**

On Iwo Jima – 5<sup>th</sup> Division Medical BN Hospital set up on edge of Airfield 1.

In Korea – Set to ship out 13 October 1950 with seabags already onboard the transport ship when he was pulled off to train and man the heaviest artillery piece, the 155mm howitzer

In Vietnam – 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt, Alpha Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Recon BN, Quang Tri

*While stationed in Okinawa, Sgt Boutwell was among the Iwo veterans who flew back to the island for the first Reunion in Peace in 1970, although his plane was delayed several hours leaving Okinawa and he unfortunately missed all of the celebrations, speeches, and meeting of former enemies that took place on top of Mt Suribachi earlier in the day.*

*Today, George Boutwell lives happily in Pell City, Alabama, with daughters Barbara Boutwell and Brenda Rae in close by towns. These days, he is an avid golfer, with a goal of walking 18 holes two or three times per week.*

### **Staff Sgt Al Nelson**

On Iwo Jima - 5<sup>th</sup> Tank BN – driver of Sherman medium tank

In Korea – 1<sup>st</sup> Tank BN (1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division)

In Vietnam – 3<sup>rd</sup> Amtrac BN – 1<sup>st</sup> MarDiv

*Sgt Nelson is a member of the Marine Corps Tankers Association*

*Al Nelson is the only living Iowa vet who served in all three wars. He lives comfortably at home with his daughter Cheryl Kozak in Burlington, Iowa, with his other children nearby. Last year he attended the final Camp Pendleton Reunion celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing on Iwo Jima with them.*

### **LtCol Tom Kalus**

On Iwo Jima- JASCO 3<sup>rd</sup> BN 27<sup>th</sup> Marines

In Korea- H&S Co 5<sup>th</sup> Marines 1<sup>st</sup> MarDiv, Pusan Perimeter, Inchon, Chosin Reservoir

In Vietnam –H&S Group 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Air Wing

*LtCol Kalus is a past president of the Fifth Marine Division Association and hosted both the 2011 Reunion in Branson and the 2012 Reunion in Reno.*

*He lives on the island of Oahu with his wife Dr Janet Kalus in a home overlooking Pearl Harbor*



## Three War Veteran George Boutwell



You've probably seen the famous photo of the five Marines and a Navy corpsman raising the flag on Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi. It's one of the most famous photos ever taken, and is a reminder of some of the deadliest fighting in any battle ever fought.

Retired Sgt. Major George Boutwell of Pell City knows the photo well, but before he saw the picture, he saw the flag in person from his ship. That happened on the fourth day of the battle, the day he left his naval transport ship to help establish the Marines Fifth Division Medical Battalion's hospital on the island.

Boutwell returned to the island earlier this year as part of the 70th anniversary of the battle. It's not an easy place to get to, and no civilians live there today. It's an isolated Japanese military outpost with few amenities and few visitors.

But veterans and family members of both nations have been having annual observances there for the last 30 years. . A monument on the beach was erected in 1985, written in Japanese on one side and English on the other

"On the 40th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima, American and Japanese veterans met again on these same sands, this time in peace and friendship. We commemorate our comrades, living and dead, who fought here with bravery and honor, and we pray together that our sacrifices on Iwo Jima will always be remembered and never be repeated."

The order of the day was, "We met once as enemies, now as friends."

Boutwell said he made the return trip thanks to the non-profit organization The Greatest Generation Foundation. Since 2004, the group has offered the opportunity for war veterans to return to their battlefields at no cost to them. The TGGF programs back to the battlefields are often emotional, but provide veterans a measure of closure from their war experiences, the chance to share in the gratitude for their service, and a venue to educate others

Boutwell had returned to the island once before, in 1970, when he was stationed in Okinawa. The commanding general of his Marines division at that time authorized all personnel who had been there in 1945 to fly in for a one-day visit. There was a very small group there then, nothing like what he experienced this time. [ *editor note: The plane of Iwo vets stationed in Okinawa was delayed with engine problems and reached Iwo Jima after the 1970 ceremonies on Mt Suribachi were concluded*]

In addition to his TGGF group of about 25 veterans, other groups also made the trip. The Japanese Cabinet came to this year's observance for the first time.

Vehicles took visitors to the top of Suribachi to see monuments erected there, and for ceremonies marking the occasion. This was quite unlike his previous two visits to the eight square mile island.

Reflecting back on the invasion of the island, Boutwell said he was ready to get off of the transport ship, which had been home for more than two months. While in Hawaii, his group had practiced beach landings , but it wasn't until they went to sea that they were told where they were going. He was ready.

"Back then, I was nothing but a 20-year-old kid that was just like all the military personnel in the service now, 18-19-20-year-old kids. They know that nothing is ever going to happen to them," he said. "And that's what makes a good military force – you've got kids like that who think nothing's ever going to happen to them."

“I could see the shore, and boats and amtraks (amphibious tracked personnel carriers) that had been destroyed, and some of them floating out there because the Japanese had hit some of them. We knew there are people who had been wounded and killed on the island there,” he said. “We had heard that John Basilone, who had won the Medal of Honor at Guadalcanal in 1942, had been killed on the first day.”

Basilone had been sent back home as a hero after Guadalcanal to help raise money for bonds, but after a few months wanted to get back into action.

When Boutwell went to the island on a landing craft mechanized (LCM), he drove a Jeep with a trailer off of a ramp where he found himself sitting still with all four wheels on the Jeep spinning in the volcanic ash. Tractors pulled vehicles onto metal strips put into place by engineers to create a drivable road.

His battalion moved to the other side of the island to help set up the hospital where he subsequently served as a guard. He recalled an incident when an unarmed Japanese soldier walked down a dirt road into their area smoking a cigarette. He was quickly taken prisoner and held for questioning.

Boutwell saw some of the tunnels on the island, which were part of an elaborate defense system designed to help the Japanese fight against an expected invasion. Three days of shelling that took place before the Marines went on shore did some damage to Japanese defenses, but still the Marines took heavy casualties. Most of the 21,000 Japanese troops fought to the death or took their own lives during the battle. The American force of 60,000 Marines and a few thousand Navy Seabees on the island suffered 26,000 casualties, including 6,800 dead in the 36 days of fighting.

Boutwell was unaware if there were any surviving Japanese soldiers from the battle at the ceremony, but the widow of one of the soldiers sent him a gift of “peace beads.” At age 97, she makes the gifts to American veterans every year at the memorial ceremonies.

Boutwell said Iwo Jima was important because of its impact on the air war. Japanese forces there were detecting U.S. bombers flying from Guam to Japan. They in turned alerted Japan, and fighters were scrambled to meet the bombers before they arrived. Iwo Jima was also needed as an emergency landing area for aircraft returning from Japan that had either been damaged on the mission or had other problems.

While the focal point of the trip was the visit to Iwo Jima, most of his time was spent on other islands. Guam was home base. Boutwell was taken by surprise by the public outpouring of appreciation by the people of Guam toward the veterans for freeing them or their ancestors from Japanese oppression during the war. His group also stayed on Saipan, and traveled from there the short distance to Tinian. There, they saw where the atomic bombs that ended the war were stored and loaded, and the runway from which the Enola Gay took off to make its historic flight.

Boutwell and his family have enjoyed attending service reunions in different cities over the years. He served in the Marines for 28 years, including time during the Korean Conflict and service in Vietnam.



He also served as a drill sergeant at Camp Pendleton near San Diego, a job he said was probably the toughest in the Marines as far as the hours and intensity involved. ❖

## Three War Veteran Sam Jones



*(Gunner Sam Jones with son Sammy Jones  
and BGen Michael Fahey at the 2016 FMDA reunion  
in San Antonio, TX)*

For nearly 30 years Samuel J. “Sam” Jones was a member of the United States Marine Corps, serving his country in both times of war and peace. During his time of service Jones, who has made his home in the Piggott area since retiring over 40 years ago, participated in historic campaigns and battles and bore witness to history in the making. Earning a variety of medals and commendations, he put together a service record which included action in several major battles in both World War II and Korea, and documented his part in the allied efforts in Vietnam. He was also a champion marksman, led military shooting teams and played a hand in working the bugs out of one of the most famous assault rifles in history.

Recently he sat down and recounted some of his experiences, and looked forward to a reunion. “Our numbers are dwindling, I'd say in four or five more years you won't be able to find a World War II veteran, they'll all be gone,” Jones said of his former comrades in arms.

A native of Southeast Missouri, Jones grew up in the area west of Bernie. He began his service to his country on Jan. 1, 1944, when he joined the USMC at the age of 18 and one-half years.

“I went to St. Louis to Jefferson Barracks and told them I wanted to be in the Marines,” he offers. “I didn't know they were only taking five Marines a day, but I put up a pretty good fuss and this big Sergeant came in and gave the man a nod—and I was a Marine.” From there he was sent to MCRD, San Diego, for boot camp. “After boot camp I was assigned to the 28th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton, Calif. and, in August of 1944 my unit was relocated to Camp Tarawa, Hawaii, for further training.”

During this time Jones noted the training mainly consisted of beach landings, “we'd hit the beach and turn left, because there was a mountain there we didn't know we were getting ready for Iwo Jima, and that was Mount Suribachi”

On Feb. 19, 1945, Jones was among the American forces who landed on Iwo Jima, and participated in the bloody battle for the island against the Japanese forces. “I hit the beach as a mortar man, in the mortar crew, but Suribachi was overlooking the beaches and I landed in the very left flank,” he explained. “And, they were looking right down at us shooting—and a lot of young men died right there on that beach. “ Men from Jones' unit, the 28th Marines, were the ones who raised the American flag on top of Mt. Suribachi during the battle—the image of which was captured and later immortalized as the famous memorial in Washington D.C.

“After the flag went up the rifle companies had lost so many men they took all except a skeleton crew from the mortars and they put a rifle in my hands, so now I'm a rifleman,” he added. “After I joined that rifle squad we started the attack the next day, and that's when I found out we were really in a war. There wasn't anybody between me and them, it was up close and personnel.”

Jones noted the battle lasted 36 days and nights, and proved to be the last man-to-man battle in his opinion. “In Korea, Vietnam or even Iraq if one side is getting hammered too bad they can back up and re-group, but not on Iwo Jima. There's no such thing, you're face to face,” he explained. “Whoever could shoot the fastest, and straightest, lived to talk about it. You think it wouldn't change you, but it does.”



Enemy troop strength had been estimated at 5,000, but the Marines found some 23,000 of the enemy deeply entrenched in caves and bunkers. “We had about 6,800 Marines killed, and another 20,000 wounded,” he surmised.

Following his service on Iwo Jima, the 28th Marines returned to Hawaii and trained for a possible attack on the Japanese homeland. “We were supposed to go to Okinawa, but there weren't enough of us left so they sent us back to Hawaii. The core unit I was in, of the 81 men in that platoon there were 19 of us left,” he added. “It went on for 36 days and nights, you'd live through the day and wonder if you'd make it through the night. It was the bloodiest battle in the Marine Corps' history.”

After the Japanese surrender, his unit moved to Kyushu, the southern-most island of Japan, as occupation forces.

After returning to the mainland, he was stationed at the Naval Base, Great Lakes, Ill., Naval Ordnance Plant in Detroit and at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. In early 1947 he was transferred overseas to the 5th Marine Regiment, stationed on the island of Guam. He returned to the U.S. in early 1948, and was discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

At this time Jones' life also took another turn, as he married Betty Sue Blackwell, a native of the Pollard area, on March 9, 1948, and the couple moved to Oklahoma. At little over a year later Jones joined the Marine Corps Reserve, and served in Oklahoma City until the unit was activated and sent to Camp Pendleton where they were integrated into regular Marine units. It was during this time his first child, Sammy Jr. Jones, was born. Sammy would also follow in his father's footsteps, and is now a retired Marine as well.

“I was assigned to Weapons Company 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment and was immediately put on a ship headed toward Korea,” he offered. “In Korea I served as a forward observer for an 81mm mortar platoon.” During this time he was attached to C Company, and directed mortar fire in their support against North Korean and Chinese forces. It was during this time that Jones found himself a part of another battle which would be documented in the annals of Marine history.



In what has become known as the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Jones and his fellow troops found themselves surrounded by the Chinese 9th Army. From late November to mid-December of 1950, the 17-day long battle played-out in freezing weather as 30,000 UN troops held-off 120,000 Chinese, and made a fighting retreat—inflicting crippling losses on their enemies in the process.

“We had to fight our way out of the trap, and bring our dead and wounded with us,” Jones remembered. The battle proved to be a turning point in the war, as UN troops were pushed from North Korea, but it also provided a boost in morale to the United Nations forces as the “Chosin Few” had prevailed despite the odds. The effort prompted one general to remark, “we didn't retreat, we just changed direction of attack.”

Jones was recognized for his service in Korea, and was awarded the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained. The Bronze Star was awarded for “heroic achievement in connections with operations against the enemy while serving with a Marine rifle company in Korea on March 9, 1951. The commendation noted he “displayed great skill and courage in performance of his duties as an 81 mm mortar forward observer.” It noted “while advancing with assault elements of the company, he was subject to intense small arms and machine gun fire from well-entrenched and heavily defended enemy positions atop Hill 396. Completely disregarding his own safety, he moved to an exposed position and coolly directed a heavy and accurate mortar barrage which destroyed several bunkers and drove the enemy into the open where they were cut down by the attacking infantrymen.”

Jones was also promoted to Staff Sergeant at the end of his tour of duty in Korea. Following service in Korea,

Jones returned to the United States and was assigned to Marine Barracks, Naval Ammunition Depot, in McAlester, Okla. While there he served as NCOIC (Non-commissioned officer in charge) for one of the guard sections. In early 1952 he was promoted again, this time to Gunnery Sergeant.

Afterward, he was reassigned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he served as Platoon Leader for an 81mm mortar platoon, a job normally assigned to a First Lieutenant. While stationed at Camp Lejeune he and his wife had their second and third children, daughters Barbara Sue Jones and Linda Kay Jones.

In 1954 he was assigned to serve as 1st Sergeant of N Company, 4th Battalion, 8th Marines. The following year he was transferred to the Landing Force Training Unit, NAB, Little Creek, Va. At this location he served with the Advanced Amphibious Warfare Section. By 1957 he was promoted to Warrant Officer, and served as an instructor until he was transferred overseas to Okinawa.

While based in Okinawa he served as Adjutant, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines. It was during this time the unit sailed under war time security into the Persian Gulf for combat action in that area, if needed. The remainder of the tour he served as platoon leader of the Battalion's recoilless rifle platoon.

Returning to the United States in 1959, Jones was assigned as Executive Officer, Headquarters Company, Landing Force Training Unit, Coronado, Calif. During his time in this position Jones took-up competitive pistol shooting, which opened another chapter of his military career.

In 1960 he won the silver medal in the Western Division matches, and went on to compete in the National Matches as a member of the Marine Corp Rifle and Pistol Team. He further distinguished himself as a marksman in 1962, when he became only the 197th person to shoot a score over 2,600 in a National Rifle Association pistol tournament. In 1963 his work was rewarded, as he earned the Distinguished Pistol Marksmanship medal.

Jones was selected for assignment to Hawaii in 1964, to serve as Officer in Charge of the Hawaiian Marine Rifle and Pistol Team, as a member of the G-3 Section, Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force Pacific. He also served as Executive Officer, Pacific Division Rifle and

Pistol Matches, a job assigned to him by Marine Headquarters and usually assigned to a Major, or above. In early 1967 his team received training on the new M-16.

"I first went to Vietnam because of the M-16 rifle," he offers. "I was stationed in Hawaii with the rifle and pistol team and it was requested that we go to Vietnam, so they bundled us up and brought us back to Barstow, and we were trained in completely detailing the M-16 rifle, take it apart and put it back together and shoot it." Upon completion of the training, his team was set to Vietnam to train Marines already in country on the use and care of the new rifle. "And we went there and set up these four man teams so I could move around from one location to another, and stayed 2 or 3 months," Jones noted.

After returning to Hawaii from temporary duty, he was reassigned to Vietnam for a tour of duty. During his service in Hawaii, Jones had taken his young family with him, but when he was ordered to Vietnam they moved to the Pollard area. While in Vietnam, Jones was assigned as an administrative officer for the 1st Combined Action Group, headquartered at Chu Lai.

At this post his knowledge of the M-16 rifle was once again pressed into use, as he was relied upon to train Marines on the use of the new weapon. "Each time a jam, or any malfunction, was reported they would dispatch me to find out why," he explained. Jones' background, and knowledge of infantry tactics, also prompted his commanders to name him as Combined Action Company acting commander on three different occasions.

On one occasion, the company he was commanding was operating in the Tam Ky area as the Viet Cong began what would become known as the Tet Offensive—one of the largest attacks on U.S. Forces. In July of 1968 he was ordered back to the United States, and was assigned duty as Adjutant, Weapons Training Battalion, Quantico, Va., an assignment which lasted three years.

His final overseas assignment came in 1971, as he was ordered to Iwakuni, Japan, where he served as Administrative Officer for H&S Squadron, Marine Air Control, Group 18. It was during this tour of duty that he took-up golfing as a hobby, something which would occupy much of his retirement years. When he returned to the U.S. In 1972, Jones was assigned duty as Administrative Officer, Computer Science School, Quantico, Va. He remained in this job until his retirement.

*Continued pg 4 Three War Veteran Sam Jones*

Jones retired as a Chief Warrant Officer W-4 (Marine Gunner) on May 31, 1974, having served 28 years, two months and 11 days on active duty. The designation Marine Gunner is a title of honor given to only selected Marines, bestowed upon them by the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

During his time of service to the country, Jones received a number of awards and medals, including—Bronze Star with a Combat V, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal with a Combat V, Navy Achievement Medal with a Combat V, Combat Action Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with 4 stars, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal with 2 stars, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with 1 star, WW II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Medal, National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal with 5 stars, Vietnam Service Medal with 4 stars, Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Gallantry Cross Unit Citation/Vietnam, United Nations Service Medal/Korea and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After leaving the service Jones and his family made a home on Crowley's Ridge between Piggott and Pollard on the five acres he had bought about five years before retiring. He also took advantage of the time to re-new his love of golf, as he became an active member, and club president, of the Sugar Creek Country Club. Originally from the Pollard area, his wife continued what would be a nearly 30 year career in nursing, and also spent time playing golf with her husband in their leisure time. She passed away in December, 2012 at the age of 82.

In recent years Jones was encouraged by his family to attend one of the many 5th Marine reunions, and thanks to his son and daughter he was able to do just that.

He last attended the 2018 69<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Urbana, Illinois, and is looking forward to the Dallas 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion in May of 2021. ♦

(right: Sam Jones leaving for Iwo Jima)



## Vietnam Era M-16



The M16 entered U.S. service in the mid-1960s. Despite its early failures, the M16 proved to be a revolutionary design and stands as the longest continuously serving rifle in American military history. The original M16 rifle was a 5.56mm caliber automatic assault rifle with a 20-round magazine, weighing 11.04 pounds.

Initially the M-16 in field environment was difficult to clean and maintain and jammed often in the humid hot climate of SE Asia. The reddish-brown clay needed to be cleaned from the barrels continuously. The weapons often became coated with it, blown upward by rotor wash from the Chinook helicopters or from being drug through flooded fields.

Gunner Jones was among the very few highly trained weapons specialists who were sent to Vietnam trouble spots in country to teach troops how to keep the M-16 functioning. His team of twelve experts was broken into three groups, one team sent to each of the Battalions. They spoke to troops of the capability of the M16 and showed them how to handle the weapon. Except in one incident of a broken extractor, the problem was with the powder corroding the chamber. It jamming problem could be fixed by running bore cleaner and the M16 would then fire as normal. But unlike the rugged Soviet AK-47 which the enemy used, the M16 was high maintenance, and using the bore cleaner could mean the difference between life and death. ❖



# A Testament to a Life Well Lived in the Service of His Nation *(from The Hawk Eye, Nov 11, 2017, by Bob Hansen)*

## Three War Veteran Al Nelson



West Burlington will roll out its annual Fourth of July parade Tuesday. As in years past, there will be the usual marching band, an assortment of passing politicians, fire trucks and a float or two. But there is one participant making the parade different from any other Fourth of July parade in Iowa.

Al Nelson will sit proudly behind the wheel of his beloved El Camino classic car, sporting a chest full of combat ribbons and medals.

Nelson, 91, is a survivor and a testament to service to country -- those decorations were earned in three of this country's bloodiest conflicts -- World War II, Korea and Vietnam. It is believed Nelson is the only surviving Iowa Marine to see combat in all three wars. And his unique appearance in the parade is a reminder of a generation sacrificing much and who sadly is disappearing.

But there is little sadness in Nelson because he does not see himself as a vanishing icon. Rather, he views his life as "a lot of fun," adding he did what he had to do when the nation called.

Nelson's family tree gives a hint of the genetics creating him. He remembers his Swedish grandparents whose love for each other brought them to the U.S and freedom from family domination. "My grandparents first met in Sweden. My

grandfather was just a sailor in the navy. My mother came from an important and wealthy family, and that family did not want the two of them to marry. So, they sent my grandmother to America to get her away from my grandfather. It didn't work out that way," Nelson said.

"My grandmother was sent to work as a maid for a wealthy Swedish family. But she secretly saved all the money she earned until she had enough to send to my grandfather so he could travel to the United States, and here, they were married."

Nelson's own parents didn't have a happy marriage. In 1929, as the Great Depression gathered steam, they were divorced. Nelson's mother did not have the resources to care for her three children, two boys and a girl, so it was decided the children would be sent to an orphanage.

Nelson's father, who soon disappeared from his life, prevailed upon his parents to take the three children, but initially, they agreed to take only Nelson's sister. "It was perhaps the only good thing my father did for me," Nelson said, "He said the three of us had to stay together, and, if two went to the orphanage, then all three had to go." The older Nelsons relented, and the children were welcomed into the West Burlington home.

Nelson's childhood was typical of the 1930s -- a collection of school days, home responsibilities and jobs to help support the family through the difficult years. In 1943, Nelson graduated from high school. He entered into a world dominated by news of war.

"In September of that year, I figured it was time for me to enlist because the draft wasn't too far behind me. A friend and I hitchhiked all the way over to Ottumwa because we knew there was an enlistment office for the Army Air Force, and we wanted to fly. But when we got there, we discovered the Air Force enlistment office was closed that day. "Right next door," he continued, "happened to be the Marine Corps enlistment office, and here was this Marine standing out front in his dress blues, and he really looked good. He invited us into his office, and that is how I happened to become a Marine." Nelson still marvels how this minor twist of fate set him down his life's path, but he has never regretted

his step into the Marine Corp's dress blues.

But if there were regrets, they came later when Nelson found himself in basic training in California -- far from the only home he had known. "I have to admit there were a lot of nights I cried myself to sleep because I was so homesick. I was seeing things and doing things I never dreamed of. I thought, 'What the hell have I got myself into?' but there was no choice but to simply tough it out."

There were, however, breaks in the grueling Marine training. On those occasional free weekends, Nelson's education in the ways of the world continued. During that time, he formed a friendship with a California Marine recruit who eventually became a movie star. "Being a friend of Hugh O'Brian certainly had a lot of advantages," Nelson said. "Every time we went on leave, there was no shortage of good-looking girls when you had Hugh along."

The laughs faded when Nelson was moved to Hawaii to join the newly formed Marine Fifth Division, the Spearhead Division. As the unit's combat skills were honed, stories of the horrific battles being fought on the Pacific Islands circulated among the ranks.

"We were being assigned to combat units, and as part of that, there were interviews to see where you should be placed. The guy that interviewed me looked at my records and said, 'Hey, you're from Iowa, so you must know how to drive farm machinery, so I am assigning you to the tank corps'. I tried to tell him I had never even been near a tractor, but it was too late, and into armor that I went."

The day finally came when the untried division and the neophyte tank driver found themselves aboard a ship as part of a large fleet sailing to the island of Iwo Jima and their own personal hell.

Little was known about the island because few maps existed. What was known was there was a large garrison of Japanese troops willing to die for their emperor. "The night before we went ashore," Nelson said, "there were 10 U.S. ships in the harbor, but when I woke up in the morning,

there were hundreds. There was firing and noise and confusion everywhere as we got ready to go. I was in the second wave, but on that long ride in and when it hit the beach, I confess it scared me. The ramps went down, and I could see bodies and parts of bodies everywhere."

He continued: "Machine gun rounds were kicking up this loose black sand and people were screaming. Right then, I was happy to be in a tank because what little I was seeing wasn't good. But we were able to get off the beach without too many in my unit being killed.

"That's how it began. It was supposed to take us just three days to secure the island. It took 36 days, and there was fighting and dying everyday. I couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

He recalls tanks fighting across a Japanese airfield, and as the fighting continued, damaged bombers returning from raids on Japan were crashing on the field even as fighting was going on.

When at last the island fell and Nelson could marvel at still being alive, his combat in World War II ended. His division was to be readied for the upcoming invasion of Okinawa. With so many casualties, the division was sent back to Hawaii to replenish its ranks.

They were told the invasion of the Japanese homeland would come next and it would be a horrific battle. But the atom bomb ended that, and Nelson found himself as part of the occupation army

He went to Nagasaki to see what remained of the devastated city and once again brushed up against death. "No one knew anything about the radiation that had to be left over after the bomb. But we wandered about town for days, and some of the guys I was with later died of cancer, but I had no problems. Just luck I guess," he said.

Nelson found the post-war Marines to his liking, and he enjoyed Japan, so he decided to remain in the service. He returned to the states, married and was making a life in the Marines. However, he did not realize five years later he would find his life at risk in Korea.

*Continued pg 3* Three War Veteran Al NelsonNelson

“It was 1951, and my unit was forming a roadblock as the Chinese were coming south. We were told there were 2,500 of them coming down the road, and there were 160 of us to stop them, so it was a pretty nervous night,” he said. Sometime that night, Chinese troops came close to the American tanks, and there was a flurry of shots and grenade explosions. Fuel barrels were set aflame as close-in combat raged. But the unit held. When dawn arrived, Nelson was laying alongside his tank with grenade shrapnel in his leg.

“Somehow, they got a helicopter in to lift me out, and I thought that it was my ticket out of there, but 30 days later, they sent me back to the front lines. I really remember that night I got wounded for that was the night my first son was born back in Carolina.”

The call to battle sounded once again when the combat veteran was sent to Vietnam during the early days of the conflict and more combat medals were added to his uniform.

He is widowed and, in February, he began living with a daughter in a comfortable rural Burlington home.

He now is content to keep track of grandchildren and renew his relationship with his childhood home. He remains in good health and still drives his El Camino and his everyday car, a 1993 Cadillac. And when the opportunity arrives, he attends veteran events and parades to remind us of what Fourth of July parades are about. ❖



## **Veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam honored in southeast Iowa**

*(Nov 10, 2017 source Radio Iowa)*

**U.S. Senator Joni Ernst was on hand today to present Nelson with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol.**



Ernst, a retired Iowa National Guard officer who did a tour of duty in Iraq, also presented Nelson with something a bit more personal. . “There is a tradition in the military of challenge coins,” Ernst said. “...It’s a tradition I’m carrying on in the United States Senate.”

Ernst gave Nelson a coin that features the U.S. Senate emblem on one side and the Iowa flag and a Minuteman on the other. Nelson gave Ernst a gift in return — sand from the beach at Iwo Jima. Nelson, who was a gunnery sergeant in the Marines, had been given the sand during a peacetime trip to the island. ♦





## Three War Veteran Thomas Kalus

Battle for Iwo Jima still fresh in veteran's mind



Retired Marine Lt. Col. Thomas Kalus of Aiea was an 18-year-old private first class when he came ashore at Iwo Jima's Red Beach

Sixty-five years ago, Thomas Kalus was an 18-year-old Marine from Colorado when he waded ashore on the faraway volcanic sands of Iwo Jima during World War II with an M1 carbine and no idea what he'd face next. He quickly ditched the small-caliber weapon in favor of a much harder-hitting Garand rifle "because I couldn't knock anybody down."

The battle for Iwo Jima has stuck with him much longer. The 83-year-old 'Aiea resident just returned from his third visit to the island following the war.

"At first, the amount of people that were getting hurt and killed, you just thought that was part of the game, but the impact of it hits you when you went to the cemetery dedication, when you saw all those white crosses," Kalus said. Those were the battlefield crosses for the dead at a makeshift cemetery when the fighting was over. "All of a sudden you realize, this was serious business," said Kalus, whose introduction to combat came at Iwo Jima. "But when you were 17 or 18 years old, you really don't think about those kind of things. It doesn't come to you until you become a lot older."

The battle for Iwo Jima, fought Feb. 19 to March 26, 1945, was one of the toughest and bloodiest of World War II.

The grittiness of that fighting is shown on a cable TV series. "The Pacific," which debuted March 14 (2010) on HBO, follows three Marines through a series of island battles, including Iwo Jima. The series picks up events following the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor.

In the Pacific, Americans "were battling an enemy that fought by rules that we had never in our military history encountered," producer Spielberg said of the Japanese. "And if they survived that, they still had to contend with malaria, yellow fever and the malaise of existing in a hostile natural environment."

Thirty-thousand U.S. Marines with the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions went ashore on the nine square miles of volcanic rock and sand to battle 21,000 Japanese dug in and waiting for them. Flamethrowers and grenades were used to dislodge from caves and miles of tunnels Japanese troops willing to die to defend the island airfield just 660 miles south of Tokyo. A total of 6,821 U.S. lives were lost. Fewer than 1,000 Japanese survived.

The iconic raising of the American flag on Mount Suribachi by five Marines and a Navy corpsman was made famous by photographer Joe Rosenthal.

Kalus said he wanted to join the Marines at 17 after a family friend was killed on Tarawa, but he had one brother in the Army and another in the Navy, and his mother wouldn't sign for him to enter the service. She finally relented, and Kalus went through boot camp and trained with other Marines for the Iwo Jima invasion at Kamuela on the Big Island, on Parker Ranch's steep hills.

There was no shooting when he and fellow 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines landed on Iwo Jima's Red Beach, he said. "The Japanese general's operating mode was, 'Let them get ashore, and once they get ashore, we'll slaughter them by artillery (and other fire),' " Kalus said. "So the first two hours were pretty quiet — then it opened up and we got a lot of bombardment for the first three days."

He was about a third of a mile from Mount Suribachi, and the Marines were getting strafed by machine gun fire and pounded by artillery and mortars. Kalus' job was to set up ship-to-shore communications, and a few hundred feet up the beach he and others dug in. Mortars landed within feet of his foxhole.

Japanese kamikaze planes attacked the U.S. ships, and Kalus recalls the lights and fire going up into the air looking like the Fourth of July.

About 20 days into the attack, "things got kind of desperate for the Japanese, and they were taking crazy chances," he said. "At night they would infiltrate the front lines, and any clump of bushes that was around

could have been hiding a sniper," Kalus said. "They were absolutely committed to taking their fair share of Marines out before they gave their life. That was their instruction — kill 10 Marines before you die yourself, and they tried their very best to do that." Kalus said many of the young Marines, meanwhile, were reckless.

"They would just take chances saving their buddies or trying to get in a position to open fire on (the Japanese) in a pillbox or cave," he said. "They wouldn't even wait to get other Marines in position to provide a base of fire that they could maneuver under. They were just trained that way, I guess. We all kind of figured that you were there to fight and die, if necessary."

Kalus went on to fight at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, and also served in Vietnam during his Marine Corps career. He retired in 1970 at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

For the 65th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, Kalus went back with his son, David, who lives in Oregon, and his grandson, Troy, from the Seattle area.



The retired Marine Corps officer is hard of hearing now and walks with a cane, but he still gets emotional about Iwo Jima.

"My (impression) always has been, and is even more today than before, that the sacrifice that everyone made ..." he said, without being able to finish.

*His son, David, noted the toll. "You can't help but think of all the Japanese and American soldiers that were killed there, that would have had a family and three or four generations of children," David Kalus said. ❖*

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## Tom Kalus, like Chesty Puller, Ernie De Fazio, and James Lewis Day, was a three-war Mustang.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps January 1944, attained the enlisted rank of Master Sgt by July 1952 and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt in February 1953.

After serving in the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division on Iwo Jima and in the Occupation of Japan, he was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in Korea and took part in the Inchon Landing, the Liberation of Seoul, and the Chosin Reservoir Campaign.

His assignment in Vietnam was as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6, H&S, First Marine Aircraft Wing. While in Vietnam flying with General William Thrash at tree-top level retrieving wounded and KIA Marines from the field, Kalus received the Legion of Merit with Combat "V".

Tom was President of the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association in both 2011 and 2012 and hosted the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual reunion in Branson and the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion in Reno. Tom and his wife now live in Hawaii on Oahu overlooking Pearl Harbor, where Dr Janet Kalus held a position as an English professor at Chaminade University. 📍



**Janet and Tom Kalus**

# Welcome Aboard to Our New Honorary Members

**Leonardo Flores** has been volunteering to take photographs of all the reunion events and post them for any member to digitally access. He has also made the photos available for use in the Spearhead News, FMDA website, and Reunion journals/programs. He runs a business, Marines in Forest Green.blogspot.com, obtaining military artifacts and uniforms, presenting displays at his area high schools, and gathering and sharing information about Marines.

**Nicole Garcia** has been highly instrumental in bringing the Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center into a reality. Her expertise and computer knowledge, which she has voluntarily made available since 2017 with many hundreds of hours of work, has been crucial in getting 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division artifacts and photographs scanned, tagged, and ready to be posted on PastPerfect museum software so that they will be available for research and viewing world-wide.

**Michael Naya** is a recent high school graduate who has been interviewing and documenting WWII and other veterans for four years. This past year he made contact with FMDA and has since concentrated attention to Iwo Jima veterans, calling and emailing our members so that their stories will not be lost. Michael recently received a college scholarship in honor of his ongoing 100 plus interviews that have brought attention to the sacrifice of our veterans.

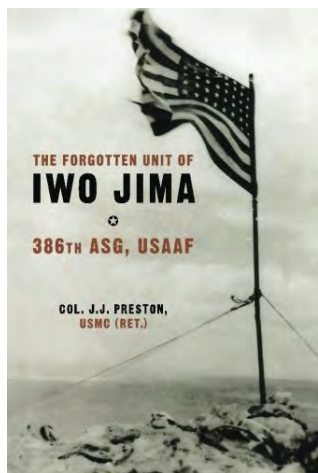
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## The Forgotten Unit of Iwo Jima: 386th ASG, USAAF

by Col. J.J. Preston, USMC (Ret.)

Book review by John Butler



Landing on D plus 5 across Red Beach, then still under sporadic mortar fire, advance elements of the 386<sup>th</sup> Air Service Group (ASG) U.S. Army Air Force proceeded to the Southern end of Motoyama # 1 in the 5<sup>th</sup> Mar Div zone of action.

The advance element was joined the next day by the rest of the unit with rolling stock, including bulldozers, and they immediately went to work with the 31<sup>st</sup> Seabee Bn to get the airstrip ready for use. During those first days they formed a bond with Marines, primarily those of the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. Heavy fighting was going on just to the north with intermittent enemy mortar, rocket, and artillery fire falling in their bivouac and working area. They were thankful on a number of occasions when Japanese infiltrators and snipers were neutralized by nearby Marines.

The unit had been given a modicum of infantry and weapons training. They dug fox holes, set up night security, and were ready for a fight if it came to that. But they had not come to Iwo to fight as infantry or build airstrips. The men had specialized skills in aircraft repair, and they were there to support the planned arrival of P-51 Mustangs of the 15<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and the P-61 Black Widows of the 548<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron as well as the damaged B-29's returning from Tokyo bombing raids.

They were ready when the first crippled B-29 'Dinah Might' landed on Iwo on D+15, followed by the P-51's on D+16. They built propeller, armament, electric, and engine machine shops, and repaired both crippled B29's and their supporting P51 fighters. The men also volunteered to repair disabled Marine jeeps and trucks essential for carrying ammo to the front and returning wounded Marines to the rear.

The 386<sup>th</sup> remained on Iwo repairing airplanes until Nov 1945 when the unit was deactivated following the war's end. They accomplished their mission in an extemporary and outstanding manner, always with a "Can Do" attitude, and were commended by Gen Keller Rockey, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Commander.



## Welcome New Members

### LIFE MEMBERS

*Walter Grale, Parma, Ohio*

*Krist Huseby, Tacoma, Washington*

*Paul Kuczynski, Russell, Mass.*

*Frank Moreno, Plymouth, California*

### ANNUAL MEMBERS

*Tom Jillson, Herald, California*

*Larry Tooker, Allen, Texas*

## The American Soldier

The FMDA sponsored 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 has now been rescheduled for July 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd of 2021.

The venue will be the same as originally planned:

The Granbury Live Theater.

More information at

<https://the-newgranburylive.com> and at

<https://www.theamericansoldiersoloshow.com>



### From the Camp Tarawa Museum

FMDA members are reminded to go to Historypin at [Bit.ly/CampTarawa](https://bit.ly/CampTarawa) to view, comment on, and add their own images to the collection. This is where people can really participate with this project and have a voice. It's easy to become a member of the site and start to add their own experiences. They can carry on a dialogue with other members about memories of the war years or of friends who trained and fought together.



Kathy Painton, who is an officer in the Marine Corps League as well as the Camp Tarawa Foundation, continues to be very active with FMDA's involvement in the museum.

### TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



**Sgt. ROBERT L CHADWICK**  
**HQ-2-26 - Iwo Survivor**

(Honored by S.F. Chadwick )



### TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



**Pfc.EUGENE B KOBEL**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Engineers – Iwo Survivor**

(Honored by Theresa M. Kobel )



## Tribute to Robert C. “Bob” or “Mo” Mueller (1924-2020) by Ray Elliott



The last time I saw Bob Mueller was in February at the West Coast Iwo Jima Memorial Service and Banquet at Camp Pendleton to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, which was to be the last time the group sponsored the event. Bob was pleasant, jovial and feisty as ever. It never occurred to me that it would also be the last time I'd see him.

Knowing that Bob was a good friend, Gail Chatfield, long-time committee member of the West Coast Iwo Jima group that hosted the commemoration, emailed me not long before the event and asked if I'd like to sit with Bob Mueller and his daughter, Sue Campion.

“Absolutely,” I replied immediately. I'd known Bob or “Mo” for several years and visited him in his home every time I was in California. He was one of several Iwo Jima veterans I felt very

close to through the years after I first met him at the Fifth Marine Division Association reunion in San Diego in 2010, where he was on the committee as he had been for the annual West Coast Iwo Jima Memorial and Banquet.

I liked the glint in his eyes and his quick wit from the first time I met him. You never had to wonder what he meant. Bob was a tough Marine with a heart of gold.

After he heard that my son in Oakland, Calif., had died unexpectedly from a heart attack, Bob sent me an email with his condolences: “I can probably relate to this situation better than most because I lost my wife at age 37. She left me with three girls ages 3, 6, 10. It was a bitch raising them. They learned the difficult way from this hard-ass Marine veteran. Fortunately, they have done well in life. Hang in there, my friend.” It was much appreciated.

A native of Omaha, Neb., Bob had joined the Marine Corps in September 1942—not long after Ira Hayes, who later became a good friend, had also joined, and they went to Parachute School at the same time and were in Bravo Company of the Third Parachute Battalion at Camp Elliott, Calif. Both were shipped out to New Caledonia in March 1943 but soon went to Guadalcanal during March and April 1943. From there, Bob went to Vella Lavella (Oct. 14-Dec. 3, 1942) and on to Bougainville (Dec. 4, 1943-Jan. 29, 1944), where he fought in the battle for Hill 1000 and “Hellzapoppin' Ridge.” Bob then went back to the States, where the 'Chutes were disbanded in February 1944.

After a 30-day leave, Bob reported to Camp Pendleton, where the Fifth Marine Division was being formed, then went to Camp Tarawa on the Big Island of Hawai'i where the Fifth trained for what the troops later learned was the Battle of Iwo Jima. He had reported to Dog Company, Second Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment. Hayes reported to Easy Company, Second Battalion, with Capt Dave Severance as commander, and became one of the flag raisers of the second flag raising on Mount Suribachi on 23 February 1945 that AP photographer Joe Rosenthal captured in the iconic photograph. That photo became the image that the American public rallied behind to finance the final days of the war and is depicted in the Marine Corps War Memorial statue in Arlington National Cemetery and other places around the country. Laura Dietz is spearheading the effort to erect one at Camp Pendleton overlooking the 5 Freeway and the Pacific Ocean.

On the morning of Feb. 23, Bob was part of a four-man patrol that set out to climb the east side of Mount Suribachi at about the same time the Easy Company 40-man patrol climbed the north side of the mountain with the first flag. Hayes, Mike Strank, Harlon Block and Franklin Sousley went up later with wire for Easy Company patrol leader Lt Harold “George” Schrier's radio and were accompanied by Rene Gagnon with the second, larger flag to replace the first and retrieve the first one for the Second Battalion. Harold Keller and Harold Scholtz joined the four in raising that flag. When I asked Bob about the patrol, he said it was led by Sgt J.D. Mulligan, a large man who had played professional football but had to drop out, Cpl John Wieland, Pfc Fred M. Ferentz and himself (also a Pfc).

“Due to Mulligan's weight,” Bob said, “he didn't complete the task. He was having difficulty and was knocking rocks and dirt back on us. Wieland took charge, and we finished the climb.”

Mueller was a paramarine, and the other three were former Raiders.

“We were on top of the mountain when both flags were raised,” Bob said. He never said anything about any fierce fighting on the way up the side of the mountain and only a little about a brief firefight on the top of the mountain. One account said the Dog Company patrol was the first one to reach the top. “That could be,” he said. “I wasn't looking to see who was first.”

He did say that there had been an article about his patrol in a Stars & Stripes article in the fall of 1945. I didn't find that one, but I did find an article in the Marine Corps Chevron publication Volume 4, Number 35, dated September 1945 that had information about the patrol and may have been the one to which he was referring.

Bob was in the second landing wave on Green Beach on Feb. 19, was wounded on March 9 but returned to the company the same day, spent all 36 days of the battle on Iwo Jima, and went back to the Big Island of Hawai'i to prepare for the Invasion of Japan, but was spared that with the dropping of the atomic bomb. And after the Occupation of Japan, Bob went home like many veterans of World War II, put the war behind him, went to work, got married and started raising a family.

After his first wife died in 1961, leaving the three girls to raise, he married again in 1965 and had another girl. After 23 years with the local Omaha, Neb., utility company, Bob moved the family to Cleveland, Ohio, for a short time, then moved the family to Southern California in 1969 and worked as a service representative for Carrier Corporation for 20 years before retiring. His second marriage ended in divorce in 1974. He remarried in 1976 and again lost a wife to death in 2011.

All the time, Bob remained a Marine's Marine in the way he handled death and adversity and worked with the West Coast Iwo Jima Committee for as long as he was able and also served as a trustee for the Fifth Marine Division Association until shortly before his death.

After I met him in 2010 and heard stories that sounded a bit farfetched or like another sea story, I'd call Bob. Sometimes he'd laugh and say he hadn't heard that one. But sometimes he had. After hearing one story, he emailed me, "The BS gets stronger with age. These people sure do want to claim last-minute fame."

Bob never told me those kinds of stories himself. He just told it like it was. ❖

## Final Muster – Roll Call of the Reef

<b>Name</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>DOD</b>
Champagne, Leo E.	D-2-13	6/28/20
Dortsch Lee E.	C-1-26	2/16/18
Kolecki, John	B-1-27	Feb 2008
Marshall, Robert J	27th	4/2/20
Moreno, Antonio M.	5 <sup>th</sup> Med	5/3/2012



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ISSUE 2: Iwo Jima



ISSUE 3: Occupation of Japan

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*Joyce Johns, friend of FMDA archeologist and historian Jennings Bunn, honors fallen 5<sup>th</sup> Division hero Boots Thomas with flowers and flag at his gravesite. In 2015 FMDA replaced the plaque and gravestone of the Monticello, FL native.*





**Please read the proposed new Bylaws (pages 26-33) and come prepared to discuss any questions or comments at the May 2021 Business Meeting in Dallas. A vote will be taken at that time whether or not to pass these revisions.**

*Copies of the currently effective 1999 version of the bylaws will be available at the 2021 Reunion. Vice President Tom Huffhines will preside over a Question & Answer session in the Hospitality Room the Friday before members will be voting on the revised bylaws.*

Some of the noteworthy changes in the 2020 proposed Bylaws to the Bylaws proposed and tabled at the 2019 General Business Meeting are as follows:

- Article II, Section 2 – Clarification of Membership Definitions
- Article III, Section 2 – Clarification of Duties of Elected Officers and Trustees
- Section 3 – Clarification of Operation and Powers of Elected Officers and Trustees
- Section 4 – Add Terms of Elected Officers and Trustees
- Section 5&6– Revisions and additions to Appointed Positions and Duties of Appointed Positions
- Article IV, Section 2 – Minor revisions / clarification to items of business on the agenda

**Also the minutes of the 2019 Business Meeting are reprinted here so that all members can read them again and be prepared to vote to accept the minutes as written or to register changes.**

#### **FMDA Annual Business Meeting Minutes - October 26, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Painton at 1030 AM. Vice President Bruce Hammond led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Al Nelson (5th TANK) gave the invocation.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Ray Elliott read the minutes from the 2018 business meeting held at the FMDA reunion in Champaign, Ill., and later published in the Fall/Winter 2018 Spearhead News. Accordingly, a motion to accept the minutes was seconded and approved.

Secretary Elliott then reported that, as of mid-October, the Association has 896 total members. Of that, 526 are Life Members (59 percent); 199 are Memorial Members (22 percent); 140 are Annual Members (15.7 percent); 16 are Honorary Life Members (1.7 percent); and 15 receive complimentary memberships (1.6 percent). About half the total membership are Fifth Marine Division veterans—427 are Iwo Jima veterans (47.7 percent) and 39 are Vietnam veterans (4 percent). Of the 140 annual members, nearly 75 percent had not yet paid their dues for 2019 (which equates to \$2,600 in unrealized membership revenue.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Doug Meny reported on the current financial status of the Association and fielded numerous questions from the audience. Given the projected low cash balances expected by the 2019 year-end, much time was spent discussing both the current year's receipt and expense components, the projected financials of this year's and past historical reunions, and summarizing the amount and current disposition of the Camp Tarawa Virtual Museum donations collected since museum fundraising began in 2015. In addition, there was much discussion regarding how the 2010 grant of \$10,000 from FMDA to the Camp Tarawa Foundation was utilized, per details provided by President Painton. The disbursement of the remaining restricted funds held by FMDA for the museum will be determined as expenses are incurred and proper support provided to FMDA.

#### **Old Business**

**Camp Tarawa Museum Project:** Nicole Garcia of the University of Hawaii-Hilo reported on the progress of expanding the virtual museum through the use of PastPerfect Museum software, which provides a database of artifacts, documents, photos and books, and History Pin, which is a user-generated archive for historical photos, videos, audio recordings and personal recollections. There is also a Camp Tarawa Shared Collections group on Facebook.

**Matt the Marine Doll:** Phyllis Schaefer gave a brief report on the history of this program that promotes awareness and support of veterans and raises money for the FMDA. Those in attendance gave Phyllis a well-deserved ovation for her efforts. A collection at the business meeting garnered more than \$800 in donations.

**President's Report:** President Kathy Painton acknowledged the efforts of 2019 reunion organizer Jimmie Hyde-Watson and others for planning a successful and memorable reunion in New Orleans. She also reported the results of the recent member survey that indicated a clear desire among those who answered the survey to continue the Assoc.

**New Business**

**Bylaws:** Proposed changes to the Association's bylaws were discussed. A motion to table the proposal and revisit the bylaws at the next business meeting was seconded and passed.

**Officers:** Kathy Painton was nominated to continue as the Association's president. Another slate presented Bruce Hammond to serve as president and Tom Huffhines to serve as vice president. A vote by voice and show of hands duly elected Hammond and Huffhines as the next FMDA president and vice president, respectively. The presidential appointments of secretary and treasurer were not yet determined at the business meeting.

**Selection of 2020 reunion site:** It was proposed that the Iwo Jima Association of America assist the Association in administrating the 2020 FMDA Reunion, to be held next fall in Dallas, Texas. FMDA life member John Powell will serve as host. A motion to proceed was seconded and approved.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 2:00 PM - Submitted by Ray Elliott, Secretary

**TRIBUTE OF HONOR  
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**JOHN BUTLER**  
Legacy member &  
Past President FMDA 2014-2018  
(Honored by Valerie Leman)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR  
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**RAY ELLIOTT**  
Past Secretary FMDA 2014-2019 &  
Spearhead News Editor 2008-2019  
(Honored by Valerie Leman)



**OUR FUTURE**

Among us in the Association are two recent special recipients of an Honorary Membership who each have been inspired to tell the stories of WWII veterans via their respective media.

**Andrew Da** of Bothell, Washington, as an eighth grader last year penned a national award-winning essay, including interviews with Association member veterans, based on the Battle of Iwo Jima and the iconic flag raising on Mount Suribachi.

**Michael Naya, Jr.** of Kenilworth, New Jersey, is a recent high school graduate who over the past four years has interviewed in person, by phone, email, and video over 100 WWII veterans including Iwo Jima veterans. Michael is a founding member of the Young Historians Program of the DC3 Society.

These young patriots are the “keepers of the flame”. Their genuine and selfless efforts to document the stories of real people, including veterans of our own Association is the kind of enthusiasm and devotion that America is going to need to teach future generations. We cannot depend on the history books.

Thank you Andrew and Michael !!

**TRIBUTE OF HONOR  
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**DOUG MENY**  
Past Treasurer FMDA 2015-2020  
(Honored by John & Kath Butler)



## **5th MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION – BYLAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, former members of the 5th Marine Division and attached units, of the Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps, have established a permanent organization in order that we may be of greater service to our Country and to one another, to promote the interests and welfare of former members of the Division, and in order to perpetuate the name, glory, and spirit of the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division. (Source: *The 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association program of the 1st Annual Convention 1949.*)

### **ARTICLE I - NAME AND MISSION**

**SECTION 1.** The name of the organization shall be the 5th Marine Division Association (hereafter referred to in these Bylaws as the “Association”). The Association shall also be referred to as the “Fifth Marine Division Association” and the “FMDA”. This name is wholly-owned by the Association and shall not be permitted to be used by other organizations for any purpose.

**SECTION 2.** The Association is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization registered in the State of Florida. The Association shall be operated in general conformance with the Principles and Practice Guidelines of the Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations. The Association shall operate as an all-volunteer group with no stipends or salaries paid to any officer, Director or Appointed Position (each as defined in Article III below).with the exception that a financial professional may be compensated for tax or other services rendered, upon the approval of the Board

**SECTION 3.** The mission of the Association is to unite the 5th Marine Division’s WWII and Vietnam War veterans, their family members, and supporters in an exclusive fraternity of honor to perpetuate the spirit of valor, sacrifice, and duty exemplified by those who served in the epic battles of Iwo Jima and Vietnam, and to advance the professional, literary, and historical role of the USMC in defending the United States of America.

**SECTION 4.** This mission shall be accomplished by the following social, patriotic, and educational activities.

A. Perpetuating the memory of deceased veterans and comforting their survivors, B. Assisting needy and disabled veterans, and widows and orphans of deceased veterans, C. Visiting sick and/or hospitalized veterans, D. Organizing, supporting and participating in activities honoring veterans, E. Conducting educational programs, F. Sponsoring annual reunions for the Association’s members, and G. Supporting approved non-profit entities such as but not limited to the Camp Tarawa Virtual Museum, the Young Marines and the Semper Fi Fund.

### **ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP TYPE AND DUES**

**Life or Annual** – Members in Categories A, B, C and D, as defined in Section 2 below may choose to join the Association with remittance of a higher one-time due’s payment (Life Members). Life Members shall not be required to pay further dues. Categories E and F as defined below are always awarded as Life Memberships. The alternative is for a person wishing to join the Association to pay set lower dues each year (Annual Member). Annual memberships expire 31 December and are renewable with an annual payment due 1 January. Rates shall be established by the Board and shall be published in the *Spearhead News*.

**SECTION 2. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP** –There are six (6) categories of membership.

A. **Iwo Vet Membership.** Any person who, during WWII, has honorably served in the 5th Marine Division, one of the Division’s attached units, or in any other military component of the Battle of Iwo Jima (IM).

B. **Vietnam Vet Membership.** Any person who, during the Vietnam War, has honorably served in an activated Regiment of the 5th Marine Division or in any attached unit (VM).

C.**Legacy Membership.** Any person related to an Iwo Jima or Vietnam veteran, either living, deceased after the war, or KIA (Killed in Action). This includes husbands and wives, sons and daughters, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins, and others (LM).

D.**Associate Membership.** Any interested person who embraces the Association’s purpose as stated, whether a veteran from any branch of United States Military Service, or a civilian, is eligible for Associate Membership. This includes historians and writers (AM).

E.**Honorary Membership.** - Any civilian, veteran, or active military member who has established a history of selfless service and support of veterans’ activities and organizations and community service, or has brought positive attention to the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division’s history may be nominated for honorary membership by the Board. Honorary membership is granted as lifetime (HM).

F. **Memorial Membership.** The spouse of a deceased member in Categories A, B and C, as defined above, who was at the time of his or her death a Life Member of the Association shall be designated a Memorial Member (MM).

#### **SECTION 3.- MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING**

A. Any member of the Association who is in good standing (membership dues are current and rights as a member have not been suspended) shall have voting privileges and shall be eligible to be nominated, elected, or appointed to serve as an officer or a Director in the Association.



B. Any member who fails to pay his/her dues shall be notified, and if dues remain unpaid into the next calendar year, the member may be dropped from the active member rolls

C. Membership dues shall be established by the Board and approved by the membership at the annual Business Meeting.

#### SECTION 4. PERSONS EXCLUDED FROM MEMBERSHIP

A. No person shall be eligible for membership in this Association who has lost or renounced his citizenship in the United States of America, unless such citizenship has been restored. Proof of the restoration shall be submitted to the Association upon application for membership or renewal of membership.

B. No person shall be eligible for membership in the Association who is a member of any group or organization which advocates or advocated the overthrow of the government of the United States of America by force or violence.

C. The Board may expel a member from the Association for just cause, such as engagement in a criminal act.

### **ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION**

SECTION 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS The Association shall conduct an annual reunion of its members and a General Business Meeting. At each annual General Business Meeting, the President, Vice-President and Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of (i) those members present and (ii) the written proxy votes (any form) of any other members in good standing delivered prior to or presented at the reunion. Such officers shall serve in accordance with Section 4. “Terms of Elected Officers and Directors”. Any vacancies that occur during the business year may be filled by appointment of the President and the approval of a majority vote of the Board.

#### SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE ELECTED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

A. President. The President shall maintain general supervision of the policies and programs of the Association. Subject to the authority of the Board, the President shall be responsible for the general and active management of the business of the Association. The President shall make recommendations to the Board for the consideration and approval of all Appointed Positions. The President may call for Board meetings as needed and shall preside at all meetings of the Association.

B. Vice President. The Vice President shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties as requested. The Vice President shall take over the duties of the President if he/she is absent or unable to continue in that capacity. The Vice President shall also record minutes at each Board Meetings and distribute copies to each Board member.

C. Directors. The Association shall have seven (7) Directors. If a Director resigns or is unable to perform his or her duties, the President, upon approval of the Board, shall appoint a replacement. All Association powers will be exercised by or under the authority of the Board. The business and affairs of the Association will be managed under the direction of the Board.

#### SECTION 3. EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. -The Association shall be governed by an Executive Board (herein referred to in these Bylaws as the “Board”) consisting of the President, Vice President, and its seven Directors. All decisions made by the Board shall require a majority vote unless otherwise stated.

B. Members of the Board shall acquire a working knowledge of the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws. The Board shall review and keep current with the treasury and financial status of the Association.

C. The Board shall have the following powers:

1. To authorize the employment of personnel as recommended by the President for discrete services to be performed for the Association, and approve compensation for these tasks. No ongoing stipend or salary will be authorized.

2 To suspend or revoke the membership of a member for just cause

3 To issue decisions interpreting the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws.

4. To appoint members per the recommendation of the President to serve in Appointed Positions or committees, and to add officer positions or committees as needed.

5 Control of the Association’s Database, which shall be maintained by the Database Manager, and shall be and perpetually remain the property of the Association.

#### SECTION 4. - TERMS OF ELECTED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

A. President and Vice-President. The terms of the President and Vice-President shall continue until re-elected or replaced at the next succeeding General Business Meeting.

B. Directors. The terms of Directors shall be five years. At each succeeding General Business Meeting, a Director(s) who has served his five-year term may be re-nominated to begin a new five-year term.

SECTION 5. APPOINTED POSITIONS - The following appointed positions (each, an “Appointed Position”) as recommended by the President shall be reviewed and if approved then appointed by the Board, and shall serve on a year-to-year basis until 1) voluntary resignation or 2) relieved by a majority vote of the Board:

A Secretary B Treasurer C Database Manager D Sergeant-at-Arms E Parliamentarian F Chaplain  
G Legal Counsel H History Manager I Membership Recruiting Manager J Fund Raising Manager  
K Spearhead News Editor L Website Developer-Manager M Association Photographer N War Souvenirs Return Manager  
SECTION 6. -DUTIES OF THE APPOINTED POSITIONS

A Secretary. The Secretary shall record minutes at the annual General Business Meetings, and shall read those minutes at the next reunion's General Business Meeting if a motion to read is carried. He/she shall also perform other duties as may be assigned, from time to time, by the President or the Board

.B Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have general supervision of the Association's finances and shall keep a full and accurate account of receipts and disbursements in the Association's bank account. The funds in this account are referred to as the General Fund. The Treasurer shall render to the Association's Board an account of all transactions and of the financial condition of the Association at Board meetings and annual General Business Meetings. The Treasurer shall prepare a financial statement and distribute copies to membership at the annual General Business Meetings. The Treasurer shall also provide additional information or reports to the Board if requested.

C Database Manager. The Database Manager shall maintain and keep current a database of the Association's members so as to show the names of each member, members' current mailing address, telephone number, email address, type and category of membership, whether the member's dues are current and any other information that would be pertinent.

D. Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order within the Association by ensuring that the Bylaws and traditions are respected by each member.

E Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall rule on proper parliamentary procedures generally guided by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order to ensure meetings are conducted in an orderly manner.

F. Chaplain. The Chaplain shall serve as a source of spiritual support and offer prayers at the annual reunion Business Meeting, Memorial Service and Banquet.

G Legal Counsel. The Legal Counsel shall provide clarity on any legal issues, as needed, and act in the Association's behalf if needed.

H. History Manager. The History Manager shall research and answer Fifth Marine Division inquiries that have been submitted by the public or by Association members.

I Membership Recruiting Manager. The Membership Recruiting Manager (MRM) shall seek to increase membership from appropriate sources. The MRM shall also oversee the compliance of membership dues payments, and shall issue initial correspondence, follow-up communication, and ultimately notification of being dropped from the active member rolls in accordance with Article II, Section 3, Paragraph B.

J Fund-Raising Manager. The Fund-Raising Manager shall seek to increase revenues by finding new funding for the Association.

K Spearhead News Editor. The *Spearhead News* Editor shall be responsible for publishing a twice- a-year newsletter. The Winter edition shall be distributed to the membership and shall include copies of the minutes of the previous General Business Meeting and also the previous year's financial statement. Information on the current year's upcoming reunion and applications to attend shall be printed in the Summer edition, as well as an application to join the Association shall be distributed to the membership. The *Spearhead News* shall be distributed electronically to active members of the Association who have provided email addresses. Printed copies shall be sent to those active members who cannot be reached via email or who have specifically requested a printed copy. L. Website Developer-Manager. The Website Developer-Manager shall be responsible for developing and maintaining the Association's website, posting news of members and the Association, and for making entries on social media programs.

M Association Photographer. The Association Photographer shall be responsible for documenting reunions and meetings and submitting these to the *Spearhead News* Editor and to the Website Developer-Manager.

N The War Souvenirs Return Manager. The War Souvenirs Return Manager shall coordinate in locating the bereaved Japanese families in able to return war souvenirs that are returned to FMDA by members.

## SECTION 7. - STANDING COMMITTEES

A Committee Powers. Committees of the Association shall be standing or special. The Board or the President may refer to the proper Committee any matter affecting the Association or any operations needing study and recommendation to the Board. The Board may establish such special committees or standing committees in addition to those specified in this

Section 7 as it deems appropriate with such duties and responsibilities as it shall designate, except that no Committee has the power to do any of the things a Committee is prohibited from doing under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of the State of Florida. All Committees shall act by majority vote, unless otherwise prescribed by the Board.

**B Limitations.** Except in cases where these Bylaws or the Board has by written resolution provided otherwise, the function of any Committee is as an advisory group to the Board. No Member of any Committee, without the prior written consent of the Board, has the authority to purchase, collect funds, open bank accounts, implement policy or bind or obligate the Association or Board in any way or by any means. All such powers are expressly reserved to the Board and the Officers of the Association.

**C Revocation of Delegated Authority.** The Board may, at any time, revoke or modify any or all of the authority that the Board has delegated to a Committee, increase or decrease (but not below two) the number of members of a Committee, and fill vacancies in a Committee from members of the Association as recommended by the President and approved by the Board.

**D Committee Membership.** The President, shall appoint the members of such Committees in consideration of recommendations by the various appropriate Appointed Position Managers. The Chairperson of each Committee must be an Appointed Position of the Association. The President and Vice President shall be an *ex-officio* Member of every Committee. Every Committee shall consist of at least two (2) persons, exclusive of the President and the Vice President. Committee members shall be appointed for one-year terms.

**E Committees.** In addition to other Committees the Board may establish from time to time, the Association may have the following committees. Additionally, the President may recommend to the Board the appointment of special committees for other purposes as he feels necessary.

**1 Database Committee.** The Database Committee shall be chaired by the Database Manager. It shall be the duty of this Committee to assist in the research and acquisition of member information, included changes of address, final musters and contact data for the maintenance of the Association's Database.

**2 History Committee.** The History Committee shall be chaired by the History Manager. It shall be the duty of this Committee to assist in the research and acquisition of historical information pertaining to World War 2 and Vietnam 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Marines and military units.

**3 Membership Committee.** The Membership Committee shall be chaired by the Membership Recruiting Manager. It shall be the duty of this Committee to organize, execute and supervise an active membership-recruiting program within the Association.

**4 Fund-Raising Committee.** The Fund-Raising Committee shall be chaired by the Fund-Raising Manager. It shall be the duty of this Committee to assist in developing an ongoing strategy to attract donations and charitable gifting to the FMDA for the purpose of accomplishing the mission of the Association as stated in Article I, Section 4 of these Bylaws and for the general operation needs of the Association.

**5 Spearhead News Committee.** The *Spearhead News* Committee shall be chaired by the *Spearhead News* Editor. It shall be the duty of this Committee to assist in the acquisition of information for articles for the *Spearhead News* pertaining to noteworthy current events, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division history and forthcoming events such as the annual reunion. Duties shall also include assisting in the writing and production of the *Spearhead News*.

**6 Website Development Committee.** The Website Development Committee shall be chaired by the Website Developer-Manager. It shall be the duty of this Committee to assist in all areas of development of a contemporary, fund- generating and user-friendly website for the Association.

**F Abolishment of Committees.** At the recommendation of the President, the Board may elect to abolish any committee at any time without amendment to these Bylaws.

## SECTION 8 – GENERAL FUND ACCESS

It is critical to the operation of the Association to maintain an accurate account of receipts and disbursements in the Association's bank account. All Officers, Directors, and Appointed Positions using money from the General Fund shall be required to complete for every transaction basic expenditure information on an Expense Report Form (ERF) including receipts in such form as may be prescribed from time to time by the Treasurer and submit on a monthly basis said ERF to the Treasurer.



## ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

### SECTION 1. BOARD MEETING

A. Board Meeting shall be held the day prior to the General Business Meeting at the annual reunion. Additional Board Meetings may be convened in person or via email if required to conduct Association business. Telephone or email vote will be offered for any member of the Board who wishes to participate, but is unable to attend the meeting in person. Minutes of the Board Meeting shall be recorded by the Vice President. Documentation of any subsequent Board Meetings or conferences shall be recorded.

B Notice of Board Meetings. Notice of all regular and special meetings of the Board shall be given to each member by the President either personally, by telephone, postal service, or email. Notice shall be given at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting, and each member shall notify the President if he/she will be in attendance, or is unable to attend and requests a telephone or email vote. Any member of the Board may also have another member vote for him/her by submitting a written proxy to the Vice President prior to the meeting.

C Quorum. A majority of the Board members present (in person, via telephone conference, or proxy) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

D Action. Action shall be taken by majority vote of those present (in person, via telephone or email communication, or proxy) at a Board Meeting. Action may also be taken without a meeting if the action so taken is signed by a majority of the members of the Board and filed with the Vice President. No member of the Board shall bind the Association to any agreement without the prior majority approval of the Board prior to execution of the agreement.

E Resignation. Any member of the Board may resign from his/her position by delivering a written resignation to the President, with a copy submitted to the Vice President. Such resignation shall be accepted upon receipt.

### SECTION 2. GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

A The Association shall hold its General Business Meeting at an annual reunion in such place and time as determined by the membership. Ample time shall be provided to conduct Association business. Any member of the Association, in good standing, when recognized by the President, shall have the right to speak on any subject and all issues brought to the meeting for consideration. Any voting shall be based on majority vote of (i) those members present and (ii) the written proxy vote (any form) of any other member in good standing delivered prior to or presented at the meeting. Minutes of the General Business Meeting shall be recorded by the Secretary.

B. The following items of business shall be on the agenda at the General Business Meeting to be held in conjunction with the annual reunion:

1 Secretary's Report. The Secretary shall provide copies of the minutes of the previous annual General Business Meeting, and these minutes shall be read unless a motion carries to accept the minutes as previously printed in the *Spearhead News*. The minutes will be approved by a majority voice vote of those active members in attendance.

2 Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer shall provide a detailed Financial Statement accounting for all Association assets and liabilities. The Financial Statement shall be approved by a majority vote of all those active members in attendance.

3 Reports. The Membership Recruiting Manager and Fund-Raising Committee Manager shall present summaries of progress. The Database Manager shall report on the current number of active members by category. Any other reports can also be made at this time if an officer or position appointee wishes to bring a subject to the membership's attention or is called to do so.

4 Old Business. Any business carried over from the last meeting shall be discussed and voted upon, if a motion is made to do so.

5 New Business. Any item of interest to a member in attendance shall be presented, discussed and voted upon, if a motion is made to do so.

6 Standing Fundraising "Matt the Marine". Matt's caretaker shall report on his activities since the last reunion, and donations to the General Fund will be collected to support Matt's activities.

7 Election of Officers & Directors. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor for President and Vice President. Furthermore, the names of Directors whose terms have been completed in accordance with Article III, Section 4.

TERMS shall be put forward for re-nomination or replacement. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor for Director(s) replacement.

If there is only one (1) nominee for an office, that person may be unanimously elected to that position. If there is more than one (1) nominee for an office, the election shall be conducted by a ballot vote by members, as generally guided by Robert's Rules of Order. The decision by the Parliamentarian with respect to any question regarding the conduct of a ballot vote will be final.

#### **ARTICLE V - FINANCIAL RECORDS AND ACCOUNTS**

SECTION 1. The revenue of the Association shall consist of, and be derived from, annual dues to be paid by each active member of the Association who is not a lifetime member, and from such other sources as may be approved by the Board..

SECTION 2. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all Association funds, and shall be responsible for the receipt, deposit, disbursement and accountability of such funds. He/she shall cause accounting records to be maintained for the time the IRS requires of 501(c)(3) organizations.

SECTION 3. All receipts shall be deposited in the bank intact; all disbursements shall be made by bank check; receipts from any source and disbursements for any purpose shall be properly supported by detailed documentary evidence such as remittance data, copies of checks, receipted bills or commercial invoices.

SECTION 4. Disbursements from the General Fund shall be made by the Treasurer as authorized by the Board, including but not limited to, the necessary advance of cash for annual reunions.

SECTION 5. The accounts and records of the Association funds shall be reviewed periodically by an independent entity when requested by the Board. Reports of such independent entity shall be submitted to the Board.

#### **ARTICLE VI - RESTRICTION ON ACTIVITIES**

SECTION 1. The Association shall be prohibited from carrying on any activities not permitted by (a) an Association exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and (b) an Association to which contributions/donations are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 2. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its Directors, Officers, or other private persons, except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for distinct services and to make distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Association's Mission Statement as set forth in Article I, Section 3.

SECTION 3. No substantial part of the activities of the Association shall be to carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation or to intervene on behalf of any political candidate or party.

#### **ARTICLE VII – PROCEDURES**

##### **SECTION 1.AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to or changes in these Bylaws shall only be effective when (i) first approved by the Board at a duly-noticed meeting, (ii) delivered to all active Members for review no less than thirty (30) days prior to the Association's next annual General Business Meeting, and (iii) approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Members (either present or by proxy) at the General Business Meeting. Any amendments shall be effective upon approval.

##### **SECTION 2. DEACTIVATION**

The Association may be deactivated upon the recommendation of the Board and a favorable vote by two-thirds (2/3) majority of active members (either present or by proxy) taken at the annual General Business Meeting. Upon dissolution of the Association, after all the liabilities are satisfied, the Association shall distribute any of its remaining assets to an entity which qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, whose express purpose is:

A.To leave a lasting monument to the men of the Fifth Marine Division who fought and died on Iwo Jima, and in Vietnam; to acquire the documents, books, pictures, artifacts, memorabilia, and veteran stories about the 5th Marine Division and to make these collections available for educational purposes; to publicize and encourage research on the value of the Fifth Marine Division (an organization such as the Camp Tarawa Virtual Museum); or

B. To assist wounded or disabled veterans of any war through an organization that has a stellar record of donation disbursement (an organization such as the Semper Fi Fund).

#### **ARTICLE VIII - CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

##### **SECTION 1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this Association's interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Association or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

##### **SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS**

Interested Person. Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with Board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect Financial Interest, as defined below, is an “Interested Person”.

Financial Interest. A person has a “Financial Interest” if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- A. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Association has a transaction or arrangement,
- B. A compensation arrangement with the Association or with any entity or individual with which the Association has a transaction or arrangement, or
- C. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Association is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial

D Financial Interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Section 3.B, a person who has a Financial Interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Board decides that a conflict of interest exists.

### SECTION 3. - PROCEDURES

A. Duty to Disclose. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an Interested Person must disclose the existence of the Financial Interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with Board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

B. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists. After disclosure of the Financial Interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the Interested Person, he/she shall exit the Board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Board members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

C. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest.

1. An Interested Person may make a presentation at the Board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
2. The chairperson of the Board shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
3. After exercising due diligence, the Board shall determine whether the Association can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
4. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the Board shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Association's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

D Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy.

If the Board has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Board determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

### SECTION 4. RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the Board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

A. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a Financial Interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the Financial Interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the Board's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

B. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

### SECTION 5. COMPENSATION

A. A voting member of the Board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association for distinct services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

B. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation from the Association for distinct services, directly or indirectly, is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

C. No voting member of the Board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation for distinct services, directly or indirectly, from the Association, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

## SECTION 6. - ANNUAL STATEMENTS

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with Board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement, substantially in the form of Exhibit A attached hereto, which affirms such person:

A Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy, B as read and understands the policy, C Has agreed to comply with the policy, and D Understands the Association is charitable and, in order to maintain its federal tax exemption, the Association must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

SECTION 7. PERIODIC REVIEWS To ensure the Association operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted annually. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

A. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining. B Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Association's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in private inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

## SECTION 8. USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in SECTION 7, the Association may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the Board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

**This revision of the 5th Marine Division Association Bylaws is established by a vote of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members present in person or by proxy at the General Business Meeting of the annual Association in Dallas, Texas and effective May 15, 2021. These Bylaws shall be considered as an amendment of the Association's 1999 Constitution and shall supersede any conflicting or inconsistent provisions thereof, and shall further supersede and replace all prior versions of the Association's Bylaws or other governing documents.**

### Exhibit A

#### ANNUAL ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Pursuant to Section 496.4055(2), Florida Statutes, the **Fifth Marine Division Association** has adopted a policy regarding conflict of interest transactions. All directors and officers of the **Fifth Marine Division Association** hereby certify compliance with the adopted policy and, further, that such person: (a) has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy, (b) has read and understands the policy, (c) has agreed to comply with the policy, and (d) understands the Association is charitable and, in order to maintain its federal tax exemption, the Association must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

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### **A Marine Goes To War in the Battle of Iwo Jima**

**A memoir by 2nd Lt. Craig B. Leman, USMCR 1943-1946**

Craig Leman, who after the war became a general surgeon, joined the Navy V-12 program while at the University of Chicago. Leman was assigned to the 27<sup>th</sup> replacement Bn of the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division and landed on Iwo on H+2 on Red Beach 2 and was initially assigned to a shore party. On March 3 Leman received orders to go to the front lines with nine other lieutenants with whom he had trained. All ten were killed or wounded in the next few days.

This short memoir superbly describes medical treatments and reflections on the care given wounded. He writes, "I remember one wounded Marine who was unconscious and looked dead; several hours after he went to the surgery tent, he came back, alive and kicking, pink in color instead of gray, and cursing a blue streak. It made a deep impression on me, and I think it was the event that

pushed me into a career in surgery. Whenever I went to the surgery tent for débridement, I could see what was going on around me; I felt deep emotions when someone who appeared to be dying was salvaged and given a chance to live". "We received excellent medical care at Iwo, considering the difficulties of such a battle and the state of medical knowledge at the time. This was the first major battle in the Pacific Theater where whole blood for transfusion was available on the battlefield. Penicillin and sulfa were the only antibiotics available."



## Notice ... Please Consider

**Future editions of *Spearhead News* will be sent electronically to all members who have an email address on file.**

**All members who do not opt-out will continue to have 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](mailto: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.

**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 July 2020 *Spearhead News*. That would indicate either we did not have an e-address listed for you or had an outdated email address. T H A N K S**

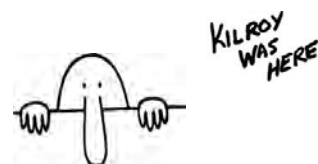
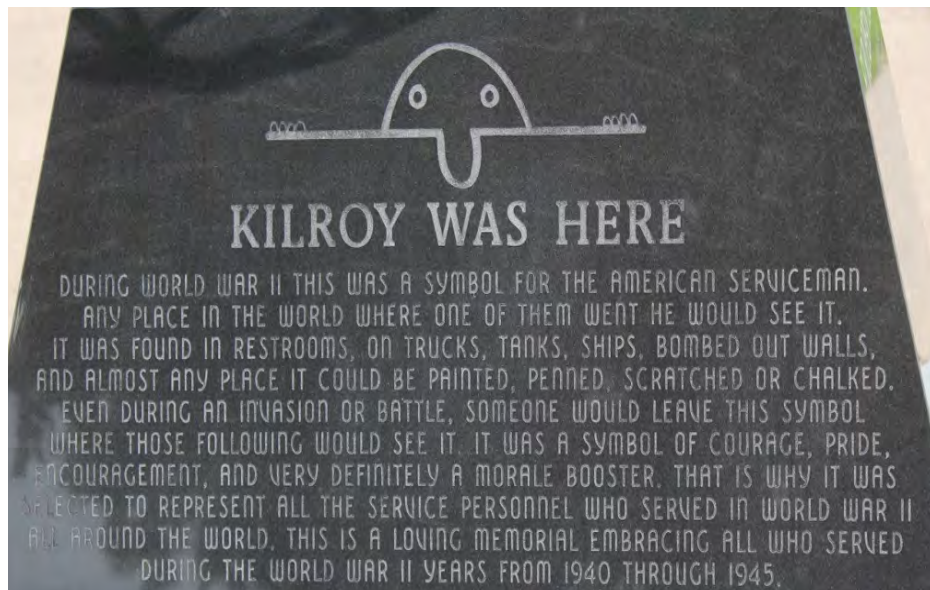
## In the Next Newsletter

**The Reunion – Story and Photos; The 31<sup>st</sup> Navy Construction Battalion; The Mount Suribachi Seabee Memorial; Navajo CodeTalkers; and more**

## KILROY WAS HERE

***Kilroy, a Ziggy like cartoon peeking over a wall, told US soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coastguardsmen and Marines that he had blazed the trail for them.***

*His image was on walls, in the engine room of ships, on tanks, planes, and anywhere else imaginable. The Kilroy graffiti brought comic relief. It was comfort and a little bit rebellion, and spread all over the world. No matter how bad it got crawling out of that foxhole every day, when the men found a Kilroy they'd know their comrades had been there before and survived*



# Registration Form

FMDA 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion May 12-16, 2021, Dallas, Texas

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

1. Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

3. City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

4. Telephone Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_

5. Email \_\_\_\_\_

6. Names and relationships of guests accompanying you  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Circle** if you are an Iwo Jima Vet a Vietnam Vet relative of Iwo Jima vet relative of Vietnam Vet

8. Vets List Rank and Unit (Company, BN, Regiment) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Relative of vets list relationship & all known rank & unit info \_\_\_\_\_

10. For logistical purposes, please **Circle** travel by car travel by airline (flight numbers if applicable)

Arrival time \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_

11. Please list any disabilities that require accommodation and any dietary restricts:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Cost Per Person:</u>	<u># of Persons</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1. Registration @ \$ 50	_____	_____	
2. Admission to "The Oath" @ \$ 15	_____	_____	# Beef _____
3. Banquet @ \$ 50	_____	_____	# Chicken _____
		<b>Grand Total : \$</b> _____	# Vegetarian _____

**Registration Deadline is April 1, 2021. Mail Registration form and check payable to FMDA to FMDA PO Box 728, Weatherford, TX 76086**

**Hotel Accommodations. You may book your own room reservations by contacting the Sheraton Arlington at (817) 261-8200**

**Ask for FMDA rate of \$119 (\$141 with taxes) per double occupancy room.**

**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 728

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76086

**Forwarding Service Requested**



**All donations are tax deductible**

**501(c)3 non-profit and all-volunteer organization**



**5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association - Membership and Donation Form**

**Mail to: 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Assoc)*

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Associate ( )**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Dues (please check):</b>	
( ) Annual .....	\$ 25
( ) New Lifetime (Age 64 & under)...	\$150
( ) New Lifetime (Age 65-79) .....	\$100
( ) New Lifetime (Age 80 & over).....	\$ 50
<b>Donation:</b>	
( ) General Fund .....	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>