



The Spearhead News

Official Newsletter of the Fifth Marine Division Association

Editor: Tom Huffhines with Member Contributors

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

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July 2020



COVID-19 Cancels October Reunion Date for 2020 FMDA 71st REUNION in DALLAS TEXAS POSTPONED TENTATIVELY RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 12-16, 2021

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT TOM HUFFHINES

It has only been eight months since we last met in New Orleans in October 2019, however it feels like the earth has orbited the sun two or three times since then. The news and effects of the coronavirus and COVID-19 have ravaged the world and U.S. health and economies just in the last five months. In mid-June, I spoke with seven Iwo Jima veterans who are active members of the Association to get their feelings concerning having or postponing the Dallas reunion this coming October. The feeling generally was that things concerning the C-virus were still going to be too uncertain to risk people's health by traveling to and congregating as soon as October. This message was then discussed individually with members of the Association Board.

The consensus by the Board was to postpone the reunion from October 2020 to mid-May 2021. Full details and registration forms for the reunion, still to be held in Dallas, will be included in the January 2021 issue of the *Spearhead* newsletter.

"Spread out, men, 'Social Distancing'---one grenade-or one Wuhan virus...can kill you all!"



The format for the Dallas May 2021 reunion will be a little different from the usual. A couple of years ago Vanessa Faurie wrote eloquently in the *Spearhead News* that the reunion Hospitality Room was the heart and soul of the Association reunions. The successful future of the Association is going to be directly proportional to how successful the membership is going to be at becoming authentic and knowledgeable friends with each other. Becoming friends and working together with a unifying purpose for the Association will become the foundation for a stronger Association. Therefore, the nature/theme of this reunion is for us to stay put, visit and get to know one another and exchange stories of our fathers, husbands and brothers. Our Association needs this at this time in its life. We will have speakers and some short films and reports on slate for a larger Hospitality Room. It will be a reunion to spark a renewed interest and desire for those who attend. And the news of this reunion will get out to the full membership!

Feelings about the future of the Association to preserve and continue was expressed loud and clear at the New Orleans General Business Meeting. Following that expression, the direction we are heading is to go forward autonomously, strengthening and rebuilding our Association so that we, the remaining veterans and legacy members may continue to remember, honor and memorialize 5th Marine Division Marines. To that end, I have highlighted some of the things that have been enacted and accomplished under the oversight of the Association Board that will help lead the Association into the future (see page 35)



Founding President 1949 - Gen Keller E Rockey

2020 Elected Officers

President ...Bruce Hammond caphambone@yahoo.com
281-435-8517

Vice Pres... Tom Huffhines thuffhines74@gmail.com
817-296-6487

2020 Appointed Positions

- Secretary..... Karen Campbell
- TreasurerTom 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 & Members
- Webmasters Dean Laubach & Kath Butler
- Photographer..... Leonardo Flores
- War Souvenirs Dan King

2020 Trustees

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

In This Issue

Reunion Cancellation -Wuhan Virus	Pg 1
2020 Officers & trustees	Pg 2
Amazon Smiles	Pg 2
Kathy Painton Message	Pg 3
Ray Elliott Final Thoughts	Pg 4,5
President’s Message	Pg 5
Andrew Da, & other Honorary Members	Pg 6
New Honorary Members & Doug Meny	Pg 7
Return of War Souvenirs – Dan King	Pg 8,9
Camp Pendleton 75 th Reunion	Pg 10,11
IJAA 75 th Symposium in D.C.	Pg 12-15
Boots Thomas ceremony	Pg 16,17
Walter O’Malley VFW Post	Pg 18
Gene Christie- “30 Days Gone”	Pg 19
Camp Tarawa Museum background	Pg 20,21
Update Camp Tarawa Virtual Museum	Pg 22
Marty Connor- Return of War Souvenirs	Pg 23
PastPerfect Virtual Museum	Pg 24
Financial Statement, Museum Funding	Pg 25
Craig Leman stories	Pg 26-29
Ken Brown’s Diary	Pg 30
Farewell to Monroe Ozment	Pg 31
Final Muster	Pg 32,33
Tributes of Honor	Pg 34
Look for in the Next SHN Jan 2021	Pg 35
Accomplishments	Pg 35
Membership Application	Pg 36

Letter from the Officers & Trustees:
**Finances Dictate an
All Volunteer Organization**

FMDA’s membership numbers have been declining in the last decade, so it is no longer possible to have any paid stipends or salaries. However, by careful planning we will be able to march on with annual reunions structured to pay for themselves, and with a continued twice yearly condensed newsletter now edited by member volunteers.

We are also looking to the future with digital distribution to reduce mailing and printing costs, and in ramping up our nascent website to hold more informational pages about the 5th Marine Division and the 5thMarDiv Association.

In addition, FMDA is launching use of a new easy-to-use fundraising effort: Amazon Smiles. The Association has done the necessary company registration. Please help support the FMDA mission with donations made by Amazon for your orders, This will bring in small amounts that we hope will add up nicely as more people list the Fifth Marine Division Association as their charity of choice.



Go to 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 a simple and automatic way to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.” ❖

A Message from Kathy Painton FMDA President 2019



I would like to express a sincere thank you to Jimmie Watson, Leonard Isacks and those who assisted them in preparing for the 70th Annual FMDA Reunion in New Orleans last October.

Special appreciation is extended to Wiley Verstappen and Ben Faulk who made a sizable contribution to the reunion's success by providing the music for the Banquet as well as for allowing Jimmie to use one of their homes as a staging area for assembling her 'gift bags'.

The staff at the Higgins Hotel and Conference Center, provided complimentary breakfasts in the morning and afternoon appetizers each day.

Jimmie went 'above and beyond' to ensure that the reunion was a memorable occasion and the combined efforts of the people who assisted her certainly made the event a resounding success.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to serve as FMDA Vice President (2015-2018) and FMDA President (2019), and I welcomed the feedback from those of you who took the time to respond to the survey which was sent in December 2018 to determine the future of the FMDA.

During my presidency, I attempted to (1) trim the budget by reducing costs for publication and distribution of the Spearhead News, (2) update the membership data base and (3) revise the Constitution/Bylaws to provide a more detailed guideline for operations within the Association. I did my best as 'captain of the ship' to keep the FMDA afloat.

I value the friendships I've established with many of you during my years of membership in the FMDA, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported my attempt to guide the FMDA into an all volunteer, legacy managed organization, dedicated to preserving General Keller Rockey's original intent when the FMDA was established in 1949.

I extend sincere congratulations to Bruce Hammond and Tom Huffhines, the newly elected President and Vice President of the FMDA, and hope, under their direction, the current leadership will continue those endeavors.

During WWII, the Marines made vital contributions to the Waimea community and many 'old timers' have fond memories of the men they welcomed into their hearts and homes. Going forward, I will continue to assist Nicole Garcia on the Camp Tarawa Museum project to establish a lasting memorial to the men from the Fifth Marine Division who trained on the Big Island.

If you plan to visit Hawaii Island and would be interested in scheduling a "Boots on the Ground" tour, which is available to individuals interested in learning about the historical significance of the Fifth Marine Division's presence on Hawaii Island during WWII, please contact me at (808) 880-9880 or kathypainton@hotmail.com.

The Camp Tarawa Foundation is dedicated to making sure this history is preserved and welcomes any donation you may wish to make. You may send tax deductible donations to The Camp Tarawa Foundation, PO Box 385551, Waikoloa, Hawaii, 96738.

Sincerely, Kathy Painton

Final thoughts about editing *Spearhead News* and serving as FMDA secretary



by Ray Elliott

It's been my honor to edit *Spearhead News* for the Fifth Marine Division Association since 2008 and to serve as secretary since 2014. Bert Clayton, who had served as editor for many years, offered me the editor's position after he had already resigned to concentrate on the establishment of the \$125,000 "BAR ON THE BEACH" statue in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park on the grounds of the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Triangle (near Quantico) VA

He had been able to report that he was resigning as editor, although most of his column was about the BAR project, which he was locked in on. All he said, quite simply, about resigning as he outlined the project and proposed an ad hoc committee to get the job done was, "Add to that your *Spearhead* editor, resigning 31 December 2007, but willing to carry on as secretary of the committee as long as I'm needed."

I wanted to say a bit more about my exit from my role. Since I had not been informed about my status for continuing the two positions when the Fall/Winter 2019-20 *Spearhead* issue that I'd promised to edit was due to be published, I was unable to write my farewell column for publication. So I'm taking this opportunity to let FMDA members and others know that I have been replaced as editor and secretary.

Expressing the full extent of my thoughts about having had the opportunity to serve the Association as editor and secretary for the past 12 years would take a book. To get to know so many of the Iwo Jima veterans who fought and survived that horrific battle and the Vietnam veterans who carried on the tradition of their predecessors in their own intense battles in the reactivated Fifth Marine Division during the harrowing days of the Vietnam War, to meet their families and to be able to share their stories through their writing, my writing, the letters, emails, phone calls I've received and the personal meetings at reunions and travels has been an incredible experience.

You can continue to read what I write about Iwo Jima veterans and other issues I find worthwhile by going to my blog and subscribing at <http://rayelliott23.blogspot.com>. No obligations. It's free.

I served with several World War II veterans during my own time in the Marine Corps and respected their service, but from the time I attended the first FMDA reunion in Raleigh, N.C., and started editing *Spearhead* later, I got to truly appreciate and know many Iwo Jima veterans as I had the A/1/28 Marine Iwo veteran in my hometown—a neighbor and family friend who saw the flag flying on Mount Suribachi as he was being hoisted up the side of the hospital ship on D+ 4 after he'd been wounded on D+3.

Then there were subsequent reunions in Washington, D.C.; Houston, Texas; Biloxi, Miss.; Branson, Mo.; Reno, Nev.; in San Diego, Calif.; Tampa, Fla.; Virginia Beach, Va.; San Antonio, Texas; Kailua/Kona, Hawaii, on the Big Island where the Fifth Marine Division trained; Champaign, Ill., which my wife Vanessa and I were privileged to host; and New Orleans, La. I attended them all and always had a special time honoring and remembering the service of the veterans and those who hadn't made it back. And I'm looking forward to the 2020 FMDA reunion scheduled for October this year in Dallas, Texas.

At every reunion, I was honored to meet many of the Iwo Jima veterans and their families and develop lasting friendships with them, as well as the Vietnam veterans we've worked hard to recruit and make feel welcomed. And through the years, I've received many phone calls, letters and emails—which is probably why my inbox is always crammed full. All of those letters, articles and photos enabled my wife and me to publish *Spearheads* that helped to keep the veterans and their families close.

The downside and saddest part of those relationships was all the Final Muster letters, emails, and calls that I received on a regular and an increasing basis.

I've met many other Marines and Marine veterans through the years, but none of them have

had more of an impact on me as a human being or treated me any better than the veterans of the FMDA. I could fill this entire page with names, but if I tried to do that, I'd invariably leave out somebody's name and regret it. They'll forgive me if I mention one Marine, though, although he's not an Iwo Jima veteran. and was only in Vietnam for a brief time before the war escalated. No matter.

John Butler is a Marine through and through.

I was fortunate to meet him on the 2005 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima on the Military Historical Tours trip to the island where the Americans and the Japanese meet annually in peace for the "Reunion of Honor." From then on, he's been the rock that's always there with historical information about the Marine Corps battles in the Pacific War, particularly on Iwo Jima. He wrote several articles and provided photos for *Spearhead*, and made recommendations for others.

As Association president for five years, John provided true leadership and more than anyone helped "perpetuate the name and glory and spirit of the 5th Marine Division, and (to) preserve the friendships formed while serving with the 5th Marine Division" as stated in the preamble of the Constitution of the 5th Marine Division Association. I am grateful for his unconditional friendship and his wholehearted support.

John is the eldest son of LtCol John Butler, CO of the 1st Battalion, 27th Marine Regiment, who was killed in action on Iwo Jima on 5 March 1945 when John was only 5 years old. John had an older sister and two younger brothers, one of who was on the trip. I met the other brother later, a great family who was raised by their mother and their grandmother and step-grandfather on the Caloosahatchee River just north of Fort Myers, Fla.

John has written many stories about those years and will also tell you some of them whenever he has a chance. Great storyteller. And, as I've said, he's quite well versed on the history of the Marine Corps action during the war in the Pacific and in Vietnam. I learned much from him. But some of the stories John tells about growing up have stuck with me through the years.

Doc Holmes, his step-grandfather filled the paternal role that made the Butler boys into the men they became. One of my favorite sayings John has shared with me that Poppa, as they called him, had told them early on that rings so true in today's world was "There is what you know and what I know, and then there is the truth."

John Butler, the other Butlers and all the Iwo Jima and Vietnam veterans and their families offered me something I can't begin to thank you for. I hope I've been able to repay you all somewhat with my service. It's an honor I never asked for, it's one I never expected, but for which I have the greatest appreciation. You can see all of the *Spearheads* I edited from Spring 2008 until the Fall/Winter 2019-20 in the archives of the Tales Press website at <http://www.talespress.com>. You'll find some of John's works in there. And you'll find many of the memories of those who fought and survived one of the most iconic battles in the history of warfare.

Spearhead provided a way for me to help share and preserve the stories of these incredible, brave, selfless Marines so that others will know more about what they did and who they were for years to come.

Semper Fidelis. ❖

Message from President Bruce Hammond

To protect our cherished veterans, we have postponed our reunion until next summer; this is tentative. In these uncertain times, we urge you to take the best care of yourselves and your families, and keep in touch with dear friends.

During the July 4 holidays, we must all remember the sacrifices so many have made to preserve our liberty. No amount of cancel culture, deranged street mobs, or propaganda can steal our liberty away. Express the liberty our veterans have secured for us by living it out.

Remember our veterans; cherish and tell others of their memories; and sign up a new member of FMDA. Semper Fi

Andrew Da –FMDA’s Youngest Honorary Member

(Reprinted in part from FMDA booklet on Da’s essay)

With a modern educational system that largely ignores American History, very few of the young generation know about WWII, let alone Iwo Jima and the significance of that bloody battle. And yet Andrew Da, a middle school eighth grader, has exhibited an exceptional self-developed awareness of our country’s history.

Da has written a national award winning essay, with in-depth research, based on the iconic flag raising on Iwo Jima during the last year of the war between the United States and Japan. Andrew’s full essay (without footnotes) was published in *Spearhead News*. (see talespress@talespress.com, Fall-Winter 2019 issue, pages 18-21)

With the approach of the 75th anniversary of the landing, Andrew’s topic was especially well chosen. It illustrates how relevant the Iwo Jima Flag Raising remains for the nation today, and for young people in particular. It is about an inspiration of the past that applies to the future.

Our 5th Division Association, composed of Iwo Jima surviving veterans and of family members of those who fought in the horrific conflict, are most proud of him. We salute Andrew for both the honor given to Marine history and for the extraordinary scholarship and research demonstrated in his essay.

His Annotated Bibliography was eight pages long and included primary sources (among which were interviews with Iwo vets Warren Musch, Avin Orsland, and Ivan Hammond,) as well as secondary sources. The National History Day rules for essays limits the length to between 1,500 and 2,500 words. Andrew’s essay, “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima: A Triumph Arising from Tragedy” was 2,499 words!

We were honored to award Andrew Da a lifetime Honorary membership to the Association.

Well done and Semper Fi, Andrew! ❖



Other FMDA Honorary Members

Dan King – Historian, Japanese linguist, consultant, and writer

Dick Camp –Writer and Historian

Mark Flowers – Writer and Historian

Eric Hammel – Writer and Historian

Dorothy Prose –USMC Historian and Retired Capt in USN

Morey Butler – Biloxi Reunion assistance

Bing West – Former Assistant Sec of Defense, USMC officer, and author

“Doc” Greg Emery – Corpsman 5th Med BN on Iwo Jima

Billy Genaust – Nephew of Sgt Bill Genaust, combat Motion Picture Photographer

Arnold Shapiro – Award-winning documentary film producer

FMDA is Proud to Announces New Honorary Members

Hebert (Bert) Caloud - Bert Caloud is a most reliable source for anything that happened in any Marine Corps battle on any of the islands of the Pacific War. He is a retired Marine SgtMajor who formerly was the assistant superintendent for the Manila American Cemetery, and now is the superintendent of the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery in Seringes-et-Nesles, in France.

Bert has long been a valuable resource for helping American families and those who survived the War in the Pacific find the final resting place of a loved one or a buddy who never made it home.

Randy VanDyken - Randy VanDyken is one of a kind in executing his mission to "Document and Remember." He is a Vietnam War Navy veteran and his dad USMC 6th Marine Okinawa WWII Knuishi Ridge combat vet. Randy spends hundreds of hours obtaining KIA records from our US government on researching Pacific WWII Marine Vets - and he has been doing this for years. He obtains the entire file of each KIA, often 30 pages or more in length - he reads each file (which includes letters from Mom and family after they were notified their son was killed), makes notes, and then files the papers in numerous file cabinets at his house by each Marine's name, ready to assist Marines and Marine families.

Bull Durham - Scott "Bull" Durham has never served in the military, but he has always had a deep appreciation and respect for the military and what they stand for. Durham started a service in which he sends specially engraved military multi-tool knives to honor active military personnel, veterans, fallen heroes and their families. These knives, as well as the handwritten letter Durham sends, are special mementos to show appreciation for the selfless sacrifice these soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coastguardsmen, and Marines make. These knives can be passed down through generations to keep the stories of patriotism, valor, and courage alive.

Durham's "Honor Your Hero" program has sent over 2400 multi-tools to all 50 states, tucking in a handwritten note. Recipients include Presidents of the United States, Gold Star families, former POWs, and more than 400 Vietnam veterans as well as veterans of WWII and all other wars.

Diane Kuebler - Diane, known as "Seabee Gal" has been long time active in highlighting the history of the 31st Navy Construction BN, the Seabees who fought side by side with Marines on Iwo Jima as they built airfields, roads, and monuments. Diane also takes part in WWII and other re-enactments around the Northeast.

Semper Thanks to outgoing Treasurer Doug Meny

(by John Butler)

Doug served as FMDA Treasurer for five years, from 2015 until his recent resignation due to time constraints of his job. A Certified Public Accountant, Doug developed the annual financial statements, filed legal documents with the State of Florida to bring the Association into the 501c3 category, reorganized the FMDA bank account with a special savings for Museum designated donations, and submitted the required annual State nonprofit paperwork, as well as completing other financial duties. Recently he enrolled FMDA into Amazon's Smile program which will accumulate donations for each registered purchase, directly from the mail order giant.



Doug has long been active in Association affairs, attending the D.C. Slavic Republic Embassy's celebration of the Sgt Strank film, FMDA Reunions, IJAA symposiums, the Boots Thomas monument rededication, and other historic events.

He has traveled extensively to the WWII Pacific battle fields, including Iwo Jima, Peleliu, Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Marshall Islands, Guadalcanal, and Okinawa, as well as to Japan, and corresponded with Iwo vets and Division friends. And Doug has always been very generous with his financial support of the Fifth Marine Division Association.

***Our heartfelt appreciation to Doug Meny for his service to FMDA
and to our Military families! Semper Fi***

Return of War Souvenirs to Japan



(Dan King with the late LGen Lawrence Snowden, on Iwo Jima at a Reunion of Honor)

Dan King, war historian, Japanese linguist, and author is an Honorary Member of the Fifth Marine Division Association and an Association Officer.

He has volunteered to, whenever possible, trace the families of Japanese soldiers whose artifacts were carried home from Iwo Jima by Marines after the bloody 36 day battle of 1945.

It was common for WWII Marines, soldiers, and sailors to bring home souvenirs, as reminders of hard fought battles and conquests, at great sacrifice, and at loss of countless friends.

Throughout the years following World War II, Buddhist monk and former Imperial Naval officer, Reverend Tsuenzo Wachi, in coordination with former Marine Private Marty Connor, had orchestrated the return of hundreds of souvenirs to bereaved Japanese families. However, after decades, items that were sent from Marines who had fought on the island became fewer and fewer.

Trunks and boxes of the souvenirs, stored in attics and basements were forgotten about as Marines returned to civilian life.

But, beginning in the second decade in this century, the FMDA began to receive inquires about returning boxes of souvenirs that family members found after the passing of their loved WWII Marine relative. King offered to handle the analysis and return of those souvenirs forwarded to the FMDA, in addition to the work he was already doing tracing items sent to him from other sources.

First, photos and booklets and papers that were not connected to an individual Japanese soldier were sent to Hawaii for inclusion in the Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center being founded on the Big Island of Hawaii where the 5th Marine Division trained for the invasion of Iwo Jima.

Next, King translated any Japanese writing that would help identify the owner of any item that had belonged to a Japanese soldier. He then began the often laborious and time consuming job of corresponding with his contacts in Japan to help trace the family of the soldier. Going through official circles at government facilities in the soldier's hometown or region, as well as personal contacts King had developed from his years living and working in Japan, King has been able to locate surviving members of many Japanese soldiers who died on Iwo Jima. In cooperative efforts with many selfless people on both sides of the Pacific, many bereaved Japanese families have at long-last found closure.

Buddhist funeral rites could finally be conducted at the family's temple to pray for the departed. Since no body or remains were ever recovered, the deceased's returned belongings act as a physical connection to the lost loved one and carry great significance in the Japanese culture.

The Fifth Marine Division Association is fortunate to have Dan King, with his unique talent and specialized skill as well as his dedication to American-Japanese friendship, among its ranks. ❖

(Reprinted in part from previous SHN articles)



薩摩川内市の歴史資料館に寄贈も検討

To request information for returning war souvenirs, contact
Dan King at squidninja2000@yahoo.com

*Among King's best known books are [A Tomb Called Iwo Jima](#) and [The Last Zero Fighter](#).
Both are first-hand accounts from Japanese combatants of WWII.*

↩ Latest Update on Flag Return ↩ June 23, 2020 in Kagoshima, Kyushu

By Dan King

My name is Dan King, and I am a volunteer with the Fifth Marine Division Association. I help people who come forward wanting to return WWII souvenirs to Japanese families.

One such person was John Platt Jr., whose father was First Sergeant John L. Platt Sr. with E Company, 2nd Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment (E-2-28). On February 23, 1945, the 38-year-old Platt was the senior NCO of the company that raised the famous flag on Mt. Suribachi. We are unsure if he was up on top of the volcano at that time, but he was in charge of that company.

Platt passed away in 1974 (age 68) after faithfully serving in China during the '20s and then in WWII and Korea. (He eventually achieved the rank of Master Sergeant.) His son John Jr. inherited his father's memorabilia. In 2017, he donated the old photos, and other items to the Fifth Marine Division Association. Everything but the Japanese flag was sent to the big island of Hawaii where they are working on a museum for the 5MarDiv. (The items are all boxed up in Hawaii so we are unable to share a photo of 1stSgt John Platt, yet)

It took some time, but with the help of Mr. Nobuhiro Nakamura and many other kind-hearted people in Japan we found the dead soldier's next-of-kin; his grandson's wife Yumiko Okamoto.

Tomoyoshi Okamoto enlisted in the Japanese Army on February 28, 1941. He initially served in the 6th Field Artillery Regiment in China, then on Guadalcanal. He reached the rank of Corporal and went into the reserves. He got married and had a son. Sometime in 1944, he was recalled to active duty with the 145th Infantry Regiment, then sent to Iwo Jima.

Cpl Okamoto was 27-years-old when he died on Iwo Jima. His official date of death is March 16, 1945, which is the date the Japanese consider the island fell. How and when he actually died is a mystery. Unfortunately, his son and grandson have both passed away.

On June 23, 2020, Cpl Okamoto's flag was presented to his next-of-kin, Yumiko Okamoto, his grandson's wife. She then donated it to the Sendaishi City Museum to be displayed on behalf of all of the men from the town who didn't come home from the war.

Sadly, John Platt Jr. never got the good news about the flag. He passed away in April 2020. ❖

Camp Pendleton Iwo Jima Annual Reunion

History of Event By Gail Chatfield



In 1978, a few Iwo Jima veterans of the 4th Marine Division determined that an Iwo Jima Commemorative Committee should be established; and for the first years of this newly organized group, they conducted meetings at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego.

In the early 1980s, the Commemorative Committee grew when members of the 3rd and 5th Marine Division Associations were invited to join this group. In 1987 the first formal memorial ceremony and banquet was held aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. These reunion gatherings have provided the opportunity for Marines, Sailors, and other service veterans of this infamous 36-day Pacific island campaign to reunite, remember, and reminisce.

With great sadness, the Committee has decided that the 75th reunion in February 2020 will be the last. A noteworthy anniversary to celebrate and to honor the veterans of Iwo Jima. We sincerely hope attendees have enjoyed the reunions as much as the Committee has. ❖

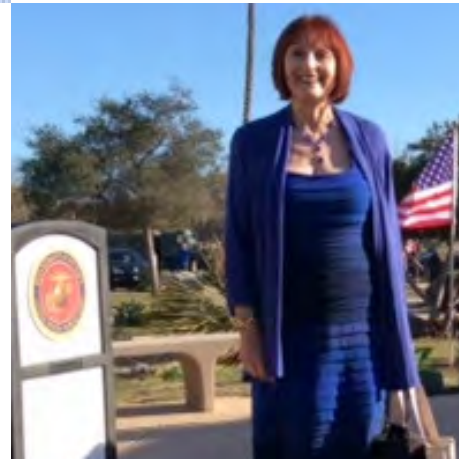
The meeting at Camp Pendleton offered a chance for our FMDA veterans to revisit the first site they trained in to form a cohesive 5th Marine Division, and for legacy members to walk the same trails and visit the same areas where their loved ones lived and honed battle skills in 1944.



*(Photo by
Jimmie Hyde
Watson)*

(Final West Coast Commemorative Reunion of 3rd, 4th, & 5th Marine Division WWII Veterans, Feb 2020)

FMDA Members at Camp Pendleton Reunion 2020



Members Attending: George Vouros; Jimmie Watson; Barbara & Elliot Harris; Al Nelson & kids Cheryl Kozak, Rex, Cindy, Tim; Ray Elliott; Laura Dietz; Gail & Alan Chatfield; Nora & Bruno Gardiner; George & Sharon Puterbaugh; Kathy Tinsley; Barbara Allen; Cheryl Mach; Hal & Karen Campbell; Nory Behana; Flo & Ginger Curnutt; Valerie Leman; Bob Mueller & daughter Sue Champion; Sal & Marre Prestigiacoamo & sons; Thomas H. Begay; Preston Welch & daughter Nancy. *(Photos by Jimmie Hyde Watson)*



Iwo Jima Association of America – Feb 26-29, 2020

By John Butler

The annual IJAA Reunion & Symposium in Arlington, VA, held to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, had some notable highlight events that were enjoyed by attending FMDA members including the Hammonds (Ivan & Bruce), Ray Elliott, John Butler, Diane Kuebler, Valerie Leman, Hal and Karen Campbell, Dean Laubach and his mother Beth, Gene Bell, and others.

A highlight of the event was the presence of Fox News anchor Martha MacCallum who was a guest speaker at the closing banquet along with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General David Berger. MacCallum's great-uncle Harry Gray (3rd Mar Div) was KIA on Iwo. She wrote a book about him and America at war, *Unknown Valor*. In her Acknowledgements section of the book, MacCallum thanked Fifth Marine Division Association member Dean Laubach, whose company *Corps Connections LLC* researches stories and connections of Marines who served in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He had been instrumental in locating two men who had served with MacCallum's relative on Iwo Jima.

Another highlight was the presence of the 5thMarDiv's youngest Honorary member, Andrew Da, who attended with his father, Di. Andrew received acknowledgement and applause at the beginning of the Saturday symposium for his National History Day award winning essay "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima: A Triumph Arising from Tragedy."

Both MacCallum's book and Da's essay have helped to bring Iwo Jima into the spotlight and the nation's consciousness again, and have focused attention on the Greatest Generation at this significant anniversary.

Also attending the closing banquet was a delegation from Japan which included the Japanese Ambassador, Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, and the Honorable Yoshitaka Shindo, grandson of Gen Kuribayashi. Shindo, a personal friend of FMDA trustee Bonnie Haynes, and of FMDA member Mary Swain, is an important member of the Japanese Diet and holds the Cabinet level position of Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications. ❖



(left both pages)
Veterans
attending the
2020 IJAA
Symposium in
DC

My Experience in D.C.

by Andrew Da

Going to Washington DC for the IJAA Symposium was an unforgettable experience for me. Before getting there, I was nervous because I wasn't sure what to expect and how all the veterans and Marines would receive a high school student like me.

On the night we arrived, my dad and I were given a warm family welcome by Mr. Butler, Mr. Elliott, and others. I felt embraced by the community and I felt belonging within the strong tradition and culture.

From the symposium presentations, I learned so much more about the battle. I was extremely honored and grateful to have the opportunity to meet and talk to Iwo veterans like Mr. Hammond, whom I had previously interviewed for my paper.

Listening to the speech given by General Kuribayashi's grandson, Mr. Shindo, I learned that although the battle was tragic for both American and Japanese troops, the triumph of building friendship could arise from this tragedy. ❖

Middle Right: Iwo Jima veteran Ivan Hammond, Sgt, JASCO (Joint Assault Signal Company Air Liaison Party #13, 3rdBn 28th Marines,) with Andrew Da. Hammond was one of the three Fifth Marine Division vets that Da interviewed for his award winning essay.

Bottom Right: FMDA past- president John Butler with Martha MacCallum of Fox News and, author of Unknown Valor.





Yoshitaka Shindo, a prominent member of the Japanese Diet, has attended IJAA Symposiums in the past and was close to Gen Fred Haynes and his wife Bonnie Arnold Haynes. Together both the late Gen Haynes and Shindo-san were advocates of establishing the island of Iwo Jima as a lasting monument to Peace. Mr Shindo is the grandson of General Kuribayashi, and continues his family's service to Japan, but now in the arena of diplomacy instead of on the battlefield.

Past FMDA president John Butler presented Shindo-san a journal of the first Reunion in Peace of American Marines and Japanese, sponsored by FMDA and held on Iwo Jima in 1970, 15 years before the first Reunion of Honor.. At that time Shindo, twelve, had met and made friends with Mary Early (Swain), daughter of FMDA Iwo reunion organizer Charles Early. The two had reconnected at IJAA in D.C. in 2018 after almost five decades.

This year Shindo had brought a gift of a framed photo of his mother and him as a young man, and the Charles Early's taken in Japan at the Kuribayashi home in 1980 to present to Mary Swain. He also had other photos of the two families who had made lasting ties in 1970 and remained in contact as friends through the years. ❖



(left to right: Yoshitaka Shindo, Grandson of Japanese Imperial Army Commander General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, as a young man. He is now a leading member of the Japanese Diet; Major Horie, who learned English from downed American pilots at Chi Chi Jima during the war; Mrs Takako Shindo, mother of Yoshitaka Shindo and daughter of General Tadamichi Kuribayashi; Attorney Charles Early, who was severely wounded on Iwo Jima and spearheaded the 1970 FMDA sponsored first peacetime reunion on Iwo Jima; Bonnie Early, wife of Charles Early)

(photo courtesy Dr Mary Swain)



(left) **Col William Rockey** and his wife Anna were among the FMDA members who attended the 71st IJAA Symposium in D.C.

Col Rockey is a decorated veteran in both Korea, at Konmichi, with the 2ndBN 1st Marines, 1st MarDiv, and in Vietnam, in Quang Nam Province where he was CO of the 3rd BN, 5th Marines 1st MarDiv.

He is the son of Gen Keller E Rockey, 5th Marine Division Commander on Iwo Jima, and serves as a Fifth Marine Division Association Trustee

(right) Beall Phillips and her daughter Liberty joined past FMDA president John Butler in the Hospitality Room.

Liberty, and her sisters Jubilee, and Faith have attended several 5th MarDiv reunions and visited with the Iwo vets. Liberty is president of Operation Meat Ball, an organization honoring veterans and connecting them with the youth of today. Her younger sister Faith has sung 40's songs both at the banquet and in the hospitality room during reunions.



(left) USMC Commandant General David Berger at the 75th Anniversary IJAA event in Washington, D.C., visiting with some of the Iwo Jima veterans. FMDA's Gene Bell on the extreme right.

(right) Ira Rigger, a Seabee who fought on Iwo Jima alongside the Marines, on one of the IJAA excursions. The men of the Navy's 31st Construction Battalion lived by their motto "Born to Build, Trained to Fight."



75th Anniversary Celebration of Iwo Jima Flag Raising Honors Monticello Florida's Boots Thomas



By Kent Dozark; Also with numerous excerpts from a Tallahassee Democrat article, by Merry Ann Frisby (Photos courtesy of Kent Dozark & Jennings Bunn)

On a freezing cold late February morning in a small North Florida town, hundreds of townspeople and visitors gathered to honor the local Marine hero Boots Thomas at the Memorial Park named after him. He had joined the Marine Corps at 17. He knew he could pass all the tests except one. He was colorblind. But Boots had an aptitude for memorization and memorized the Marine color chart to gain entry.

On D+4 of the famed landing 75 years ago, the first flag was planted on the first Japanese homeland territory taken in World War II. A platoon of brave men, including Boots Thomas, scrambled to the top of the black craggy volcanic Mount Suribachi. On the way up, they found a small piece of pipe left by the Japanese. With them, they carried a small 2 X 4 American flag. Collectively they drove that pipe with the freshly attached flag into the ground.

The American flag caught the wind fluttering horizontally in the breeze. Sgt Lou Lowery, Marine combat photographer for Leatherneck magazine took photos of this instinctive moment. The Marines caught up in fighting below, erupted into cheers. Ships near shore bellowed out and small boats blew their whistles. The battle continued but with a new visible symbol of our power and glory.

Another photographer, Joe Rosenthal, took photos when the second, larger flag was raised. These second photos went home and were published in the New York Times.

The raising of the first small flag inspired the cheering, traumatized, dazed, and ever-brave Marines on Iwo Jima. Many of them were about to die. The raising of the second flag on Iwo Jima inspired our nation and became an American icon, a symbol of our triumph in war.

On Feb. 23 1945, Boots Thomas helped raise the first flag that comforted and roused his fellow Marines. On Feb. 25, 1945, Joe Rosenthal published the picture that inspired all of America. On March 3, 1945, Boots died on Iwo Jima, eight days after the flag raising and a week short of his 21st birthday.

Boots Thomas was never forgotten in his home-town of only 2,500 residents, and the memory of this incredible leader of men is still vivid today.

His life-long childhood and high-school friend Dr James Sledge had led the drive in 1981 for the City of Monticello to dedicate a park off US 90, 30 minutes from the state capital of Tallahassee.



The park features a monument with an etched replica of the first flag raising photo. ❖



(left) Jennings Bunn at the graveside of Boots Thomas, which he visits often. On Memorial Day 2020, red, white, and blue silk flowers were placed by the grave by Bunn's friend Joyce Johns.

Jennings Bunn, FMDA member and an Air Force veteran, came to have ties to the Marine Corps from his time on Guam, during which he led tours for the Military Historical Tours. He has also traveled to Iwo Jima 5 times and Peleliu 3 times. Although not a Marine, he came to have absolute respect for the Corps and the men who fought on Iwo Jima. .

Bunn lives in Live Oak, an hour east of Monticello, and frequently visits the grave of Boots Thomas along with his friend Joyce Johns. Out of respect for the memory of the Iwo Jima hero, Bunn and Johns attend the grave and leave flowers on patriotic holidays.

At the ceremony in February, 2020, Bunn was asked to be one of the guest speakers. He spoke about Iwo Jima, Boots Thomas, and the Flag Raising on Suribachi.

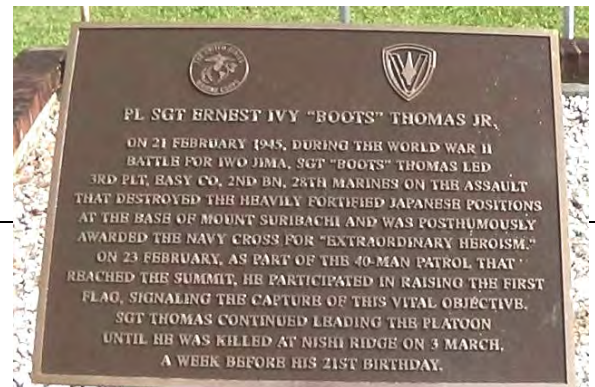
Kent Dozark, whom he met in Guam, drove up from Tampa to attend the ceremony. Bunn said of his friend, "None of what happened as to the corrections on Boots' grave would have happened had it not been for Kent's astuteness in recognizing the errors." ❖

In 2015, FMDA had sponsored the correction of data on the memorial plaque and gravestone of Boots Thomas. The re-dedicated ceremony was attended by Jennings Bunn, Kent Dozark, Kathy Tinsley, and Barb Allen, the four FMDA members who were responsible for noting the mistakes, spearheading the project of the restoration, coordinating with city officials, obtaining publicity, interviewing townspeople who had information on Boots, and overall making the re-dedication event the success it turned out to be.

Thomas's childhood friend, Dr Jim Sledge was the guest speaker and many prominent local citizens as well as visitors came to honor native son Boots Thomas.

Also attending were FMDA officers at the time President John Butler, Secretary Ray Elliott, and Treasurer Doug Meny. The FMDA funded the cost of recasting the corrected plaque.

Since the initial rededication ceremony, Bunn has kept in touch with Dr Sledge, who is a distant relative to the noted U.S. Marine Eugene Sledge, author of *With the Old Breed*. ❖



(above & right) Large crowds gather in the small Florida town for the 75th Anniversary of the Flag Raising.



VFW Post Named after FMDA's own Walter P. O'Malley



(By Ken Cleveland, Telegram.com)

This past June 23rd (2019) V.F.W. Post 523 in Clinton, Massachusetts, was renamed in honor of Walter "Miz" O'Malley. The dedication ceremony included family members, dozens of veterans, active duty service members, and dignitaries.

At the well attended event were six Mass. State Police with rifles, a color guard of six sailors from the USS Constitution, a Congresswoman, the Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor, two state senators, a state representative, and a Sgt Major at the VFW Dept of Mass, and the parish priest.

O'Malley, 93, gave a speech in which he remembered the landing on Iwo Jima 74 years ago. He was a young Marine Corporal with little idea of what was to come. He hadn't yet seen combat. He described his experience in the invasion of Iwo Jima, where high casualties made it the bloodiest battle in U.S. history in terms of square foot per casualty basis.

Onboard the ship headed to Iwo Jima, O'Malley said, the young Marines of the 5th Division were shown a map of the small, 5 mile long island in the Pacific. After witnessing preliminary bombing and the strafing, plus bombardment from naval vessels that started three days prior to the invasion, O'Malley was

ready for the operation they were told would take four days. "We could not believe anybody would be living on the island after the bombardment," he said. They never knew about the tunnels 20 feet underground.

But starting ashore, in a half hour or less, "all hell broke loose" as Japanese defenders emerged from their hideouts. "Only four of our platoon of 50 were still standing 18 days later," he said. "That four-day battle lasted 36 days before it was all over." Wounded, O'Malley received a Purple Heart, but also witnessed the iconic flag raising on Mount Suribachi.



As the audience listened, O'Malley also explained how he got his nickname. "Miz was an abbreviation for miserable. Then it was shortened to misery, then we came up with Miz." ❖



(Left: Pfc Walt O'Malley, 3rd Platoon, E-2-27 at Camp Pendleton)

After the Battle, O'Malley said " On March 9 there were only four of the 50 men in our platoon who hadn't been killed or wounded"

“Thirty Days Later” – Iwo Vet writes Ode to Fallen Marines

Quotes from Gene Christie during interview with Tampa TV News Channel 5



FMDA member Kent Dozark and past president John Butler drove to Bradenton, Florida, to attend a reception for Gene Christie, a 96 year old veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima on the occasion of the release of his CD. Christie wrote “Thirty Days Later” to honor his fellow Marines in the 5th Division who won the Battle of Iwo Jima at great sacrifice.

Butler invited Christie to join the 5th Marine Division Association and to attend the 71st Annual Reunion. He presented the WWII vet with a gift membership and talked with Christie’s son about the possibility of accompanying his father to Dallas in October.

At the reception, Gene Christie said, “I don’t like war. I dream about it.

“I had never shot a rifle. But at boot camp within a few months I could take apart and put together the M1 blindfolded. Then I had to kill the enemy. We landed on Iwo Jima in the 3rd wave. The Japs waited and then opened up. I still think about it. Now I wrote an ode and my kids put it to music. We had to win the battle from Japan on Japanese soil. We put up the flag. In my last battle I took bullets in my shoulder and in my arm and I was out of commission.

“A corpsman came running in. He was a friend from Chicago. We had played basketball and football in school. I never knew it. Never knew he was on the island. Never knew he had become a corpsman. They were the best. They did miracles. They were taking bullets, those corpsmen. Patching up guys without a whimper. Those people were super.

“My war was over. But when it was all over, all the men I had sent in and taken up front were all shot up or killed. All of them. That was my job. My position was taking groups of replacements to the front side of battle for those dead, killed, wounded. They had to be replaced by those individuals in reserves.

“This song is in recognition to them. I keep thinking of all the guys I took to the front line that never got home. What could I do about it? I could write about it. My fellow 18 and 19-year-old Marines never had a chance to live. I have nine wonderful kids. They are the best. I got to come home and have this wonderful family. So many didn’t,” said Christie.

His story and song are a testament to the scars many veterans carry daily. He still feels great sorrow for his fallen Marine comrades. Christie’s final comment for the T.V. news cameras at the reception was,

“War is ugly. I don’t want to talk about it any more.”



(Above: Gene Christie with Kent Dozark)

Camp Tarawa Museum & Educational Center



(Information compiled from eleven previous Spearhead News articles and Museum updates written by Kathy Painton, Jim Browne, and others)

Working with the Marine Corps motto of "Adapt Improvise and Overcome," the FMDA is at last approaching completion of a Camp Tarawa Museum & Education Center by changing from a brick-and-mortar concept to an Internet Virtual Museum. Materials will still be housed on the Big Island of Hawaii where the newly formed 5th Division Marines trained and prepared for the invasion of Iwo Jima from July 1944 to January 1945.

For over ten years FMDA's Kathy Painton attempted to work out an agreement with Parker Ranch Trustees to acquire a small parcel of ranch land on which to establish a museum building near the Camp Tarawa Main Gate located on Mamalahoa Highway.



This is the location of the Camp Tarawa Memorial Monument, a monument to the brave servicemen who had been their guests during WWII, which shows the mutual respect that the local residents and troops had for each other. The large rock, symbolic of Mt. Suribachi, with the brass plaque made from shell casings, was erected by the Exchange Club of Waimea in 1984.

The three black granite panels were added by the Camp Tarawa Historical Foundation in 1998. These would have made a fitting and impressive entrance to the museum.



One early proposal was to renovate the 28th Regiment's old Slop Chute to house the museum, but this plan was abandoned due to the deteriorated condition of the structure. Other proposals included a newer Quonset hut purchase; also a plantation style building with modular construction so walls could be moved to accommodate changing exhibits. Architectural plans were drawn up but this plan too was not realized because of the lack of donated land.

Although, as a show of patriotism, Richard Smart, owner of the Parker Ranch, leased 40,000 acres to the U.S. government (for \$1 per year) to be used as a military training area, and had given his own home for Division Headquarters during the war, the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust, which he established prior to his death, left income from the Ranch operations to be managed by Trustees for four local beneficiaries. Unfortunately the trustees could never come to a consensus to allow a gift of a small tract of land for the Camp Tarawa Museum.

Finally, under the leadership of Association past president and four term vice president Kathy Painton, a Big Island resident, an inspired solution was developed to change the concept into a Virtual Museum. This solution will assure the many items pertaining to the history of the 5th Division, donated by Marines and their families, will be preserved and available to all.

All artifacts, photographs, stories, and other memorabilia are being catalogued to be put online for researchers and interested readers world-wide, and housed in the Heritage Center at the North Hawaii Education and Research Center in Honoka'a. The collection will also include memorabilia from the 2nd Division which preceded the 5th Division at the newly formed training area on the Big Island when they returned from their bloody Gilbert Islands battle. It was the Tarawa Atoll that gave the Marine camp its name.

The Heritage Center is dedicated to preserving, making available for research, and displaying the history of the Hamakua Coast and North Hawai'i. Director Dr Moml Naughton has agreed to have the Heritage Center act as a repository for the Camp Tarawa collection. Visitors and local schools can directly access the material for viewing and research at the Center. School children in the area will also have available a "traveling trunk" of materials to use in classrooms.

Honoka'a is about 15 miles east of where Camp Tarawa was located and served as a place for Marines to go for liberty during breaks in their training, so it is only natural for Camp Tarawa photographs, documents, and artifacts to be included in the Heritage Center materials available for researchers.

Nicole Garcia, a graduate student working on her Master's Degree through the University of Hawai'i, Hilo campus, under the direction of NHERC's Dr Naughton, has been organizing the material that has been collected thus far.

She gave a presentation at the 2018 FMDA Reunion in which she explained how anyone around the globe could have Internet access to the Camp Tarawa Museum materials.

During all of 2019, Nicole continued to work on cataloguing and scanning into digital files the numerous artifacts from the various collections to prepare the material for the diverse displays. She again gave general membership a presentation at the 2019 New Orleans reunion and distributed a brochure explaining how people could directly describe and add their own photos, video, sound, or text to the collection using the Historypin program available on the Internet. ❖

*(For information or to visit the collection in person,
call 808-775-8890*

*The Heritage Center is located at
45-539 Plumeria St, Honoka'a, HI 96727)*



2020 Latest Camp Tarawa Museum Update *By Nicole Garcia*

The Camp Tarawa Museum online program is currently in the uploading stage. Marie Kinchla, a digital graphics specialist has been hired to oversee the process of preparing and then uploading the collection to the software. Her official title is Heritage Center Graphics Artist, Special Projects Coordinator

This will take several months as the collection has hundreds of photos, archival documents, letters and other important items. Below are the steps necessary to get this collection ready for online visitors. In the meantime, anyone visiting the Big Island of Hawai'i can participate in the Boots on the Ground tour hosted by Kathy Painton, or by visiting the Kō Education Center (formerly the North Hawai'i Education and Research Center) in Honoka'a to see the collection in person. The Heritage Center at Kō has an exhibit dedicated to Waimea and includes a section on Camp Tarawa.

Historypin.org has a section on Camp Tarawa & can be accessed directly at [Bit.ly/CampTarawa](https://bit.ly/CampTarawa). This is a site that encourages user participation. It includes photos added by the Camp Tarawa museum project as well as photos and stories added by other interested members. Please check it out and feel free to add to it.

Camp Tarawa Photo Archive for PastPerfect Software

PastPerfect Museum Software is an application for collections archiving. It is designed for museums, but may be used by various institutions including libraries, archives, and natural history collections. PastPerfect allows for the database storage of artifacts, documents, photographs, and library books

PROCESS:

Create Spreadsheet of photos, documents, etc.

Place items onto scanner, scan at high resolution,(4000 dpi) for archival purposes, save.

Rescan at low resolution, (200 dpi) to put on the PastPerfect software. Both of these image resolutions are recommended by PastPerfect.

Save images on separate hard drive.

Create files sorted by resolution & photographer or original collection.

Add descriptions for each photo. Add tags for each image, to make it easier to locate for people doing research. Also locations where the original image is located.

When all items are scanned and info added, they must be transferred to PastPerfect individually and saved.

The images can have a watermark embedded, if wanted.

The virtual museum is a huge endeavor but will be accessible world-wide. It will preserve the memories and struggles and sacrifices of The Greatest Generation for years to come! Unfortunately the scanning process has been delayed due to the Covid10 shut down of the Heritage Center, but is expected to resume soon ❖

BYLAWS ARTICLE II SECTION 2 - CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

There are 6 membership categories

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 5th 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).

NOTE: CATEGORIES "E"&"F "ARE RESERVED CATEGORIES, APPOINTED BY DIRECTORS

A PART OF FMDA HISTORY - A PART OF IWO HISTORY

Marty Connor – 40 years of War Souvenir Repatriation



Finally, Google searches for "First Reunion on Iwo Jima" will show a link to the historic 1970 FMDA sponsored event, which set the tone for reconciliation and friendship between the Japan and the U.S.

(from 2017 FMDA 68th Annual Reunion Journal)
On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the February landing, under the leadership of FMDA's Charles Early, 5th Division USMC Iwo Survivors and Japanese surviving soldiers met on top of Mt Suribachi for a highly significant 1st peacetime ceremony.

(Marty Connor, HQ 1-26, holds souvenir Japanese Battle flag)

They were joined by leaders from both sides. The Reverend Wachi, founder of IJAJ, Col Horie of ChiChi Jima, and other Japanese dignitaries represented the Japanese. On the American side, the 3rd Division commander, BGen William Jones officially represented the CMC, and John Rich, NBC's head Asian correspondent, and a 4th Division Iwo survivor himself, translated and covered the news on both sides of the Pacific.

Early, a rifle company Private who was seriously wounded on Iwo, had thought, "What a forcible statement for peace and friendship between nations could be made if survivors of these two groups could meet in friendship on the actual scene of their former conflict." Thus began a three year effort to bring the reunion to a reality. Early later wrote, "We expected our first trip there to be difficult, but we certainly never expected the second one to be so much trouble." With no official assistance from the government, and no head generals leading the effort, miles of red tape and political protocol had to be dealt with to overcome technical and logistical problems.

But FDMA members persisted and the "Reunion in Peace" happened with full ceremonies and prompt on February 19, 1970, fifteen years before the later "Reunions of Honor." The group then flew to Tokyo where members attended receptions attended by the widows of General Kuribayashi and Baron Nishi and other Japanese commanders who had died on the island.

But perhaps the most lasting influence of the reunion was that of Marty Connor, an 18 year old private during the war. He was an attending member of the 1970 event. Highly moved by Rev Wachi's appeal for the return of war souvenirs that Marines had taken home, Connor began a 40 year effort to coordinate this return. In the Japanese culture, any item that had belonged to a loved one lost in battle, held a deeply spiritual significance for the bereaved family and a way to bring closure in a Buddhist ceremony.

At the 2014 FMDA Reunion, Connor spoke to the Journal editor about the 1970 reunion. Surprising, none of the historians present were aware of this event. No mention could be found on the Internet, or in print form. Connor supplied a wealth of documents and information which was compiled in a booklet published by FMDA. As soon as the Camp Tarawa Virtual Museum uploads to the PastPerfect program, the booklet will show up on Google searches, bringing the Reunion back into focus as a seminal event in post-war Iwo Jima history. ❖

See the entire story at <http://www.PastPerfect-online.com/> Search: Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center. And enter "First Reunion on Iwo Jima"

(Information on the two software programs used by Camp Tarawa Museum provided by Nicole Garcia)

PastPerfect - <http://www.pastperfect-online.com/>

The PastPerfect Museum software program is the world's most widely used museum software. It provides comprehensive collection management for all sizes of collections.

Once the Camp Tarawa collection has been digitized and the content added to the program, the PastPerfect Online program can be up and running so people will be able to access the entire Camp Tarawa collection from anywhere, world-wide.

The content will include as much information as can be gathered about the individual photos, documents or artifacts in our Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center collection.

More Information about online museums from the PastPerfect Website.

PastPerfect Online brings millions of artifacts from museums, libraries, archives, and other organizations to you from around the world. There are organizations that use PastPerfect in every State except one, plus listings for Washington DC, and over 50 international locations You can search through hundreds of collections at once using Artifact Search. You may also browse through the collections, filtering by Region or Specialty to narrow down the list.

For more information on a specific record, contact the organization via their main website from the Home button or the information listed in the footer of their PastPerfect Online site. Can't find exactly what you're looking for? Many organizations with PastPerfect Online are working to add more records to their online collection. If you don't find an online record, consider contacting the organization to see if they have additional records on the particular subject, object, or person you're interested in.

PastPerfect Online is the fast, affordable, secure and easy way to create a fully searchable online catalog from PastPerfect collections data. Not only does PastPerfect Online enable sharing an organization's collections with the world. it allows visitors to send feedback, links to friends, and image copy requests through automated Web-based emails.

Historypin- bit.ly/CampTarawa

The Historypin website is a site where "people can share photos and stories, telling the histories of their communities." It is a non-profit organization which has helped the BBC, the National Archives and Google and thousands of others.

The site is accessible online and provides a space where people can comment on photos or add from their own collection. It has qualities of a social network site, with shared comments.

This is a place where those who trained at Camp Tarawa or those interested in the history can come together to share and talk about their experiences. The Camp Tarawa Museum has already added several images that can be accessed by going to bit.ly/CampTarawa.



FMDA Financial Stmt (Cash Basis)	1/1-2/29/20	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
INCOME:							
General Fund Donations ¹	4,725	11,478	9,450	8,620	5,890	6,267	4,234
Membership Dues (Annual Basis) ¹	-	1,500	1,100	550	25	1,530	-
Membership Dues (Lifetime Memberships) ¹	-	-	2,750	950	-	850	-
Museum Donations ² ("19 Kona Acct, <'18 WF acct)	-	2,615	2,555	250	4,956	-	-
Sermon Plaque Donation	-	-	-	1,000	-	-	-
Reunion Registrations/Local Reunion Area Donations	-	23,020	26,453	44,154	9,366	6,394	7,650
Reunion Journal/Spearhead Ads/Other Revenue	-	1,225	1,895	6,795	3,150	4,670	7,967
TOTAL INCOME	4,725	39,838	44,203	62,319	23,387	19,711	19,851
EXPENSES:							
Ray Elliott Stipend (paid monthly)	-	10,000	12,000	11,000	12,000	12,000	11,000
Spearhead Newsletter (3rd Pty Production/Mailing Costs)	822	4,183	4,221	4,193	2,097	5,111	6,059
XMASS Fund-Raising Letter Costs	-	2,517	700	-	897	-	-
Reunion Expenses (non Journal)	-	28,372	14,364	33,332	11,073	5,696	10,952
Reunion Journals (Oct 2017 final publication)	-	-	2,006	5,232	-	1,985	4,266
Iwo Famous Sermon Plaque (received Jan 2018)	-	638	551	430	-	-	-
Boots Thomas Memorial (see article in Spearhead)	-	-	-	-	189	5,098	-
Office & Other Expenses	100	2,468	220	712	1,857	1,066	1,744
Grants Paid - Camp Tarawa Foundation ³	-	11,384	1,552	-	500	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	922	59,563	35,615	54,898	28,613	30,956	34,021
TOTAL NET INCOME/(LOSS)	3,803	(19,725)	8,588	7,421	(5,226)	(11,246)	(14,170)
ASSETS - Bank Balances (End of Period):							
Bank Primary Oper (Wells Fargo since '14)-To 2/6/20	\$ 17,644.73	\$ 14,879.73	\$ 9,783	\$ 15,167	\$ 25,568	\$ 30,794	\$ 42,040
Bank Chase (opened Feb 2020)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
First Hawaiian, Big Island (Oct-'17 Reunion)	8,010.09	6,971.89	17,537	17,822	-	-	-
PNC Bank, Urbana Illinois (Oct-'18 Reunion)-To 1/31/20	\$ 25,654.82	\$ 21,851.62	\$ 41,577	\$ 32,989	\$ 25,568	\$ 30,794	\$ 42,040
Total Assets	\$ 2,440	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LIABILITIES - Due To Camp Tarawa Foundation	\$ 23,215	\$ 21,852	\$ 41,577	\$ 32,989	\$ 25,568	\$ 30,794	\$ 42,040
NET WORTH	-	-	0	-	-	-	-

1) Donation breakout between General Fund/Annual/Lifetime is tentative ("executive judgment" used as needed as is common for NFP organizations).
 2017 includes \$4k generous single member donation to the General Fund. 2018 includes \$2.5K generous single member donation to the General Fund.
 2) Museum Donations for '19/'18/'17 are verifiable amounts. For Pre-'17, unable to substantiate 100% with complete documentation...and relying on John Butler email showing \$4,955.83 primarily due to '15 XMASS Letter Mailing.
 3) '19 and '18 "Grants Paid-Camp Tarawa Foundation" of total \$12,936 includes \$5K contribution approved at Urbana Illinois Reunion business meeting in Oct '18 (allocated from Oct 2017 Hawaii reunion profit of approx \$11K) plus \$7,936 of direct contributions received by FMDA Members from 2015-2019 of \$10,376 (see "Museum Donations"). Leaving \$2,440 left due to Camp Tarawa Foundation.

In Tribute to the Memory of Craig Leman



2nd Lt Craig Leman was assigned to the 27th replacement draft. He shipped out for Iwo with 1/27 aboard APA Hansford and landed on Red Beach 2 with the shore party detachment just after the assault elements of 1/27 had driven inland to secure the southern end of Motoyama Airfield #1. On D plus 13 Craig was called to the front to replace a KIA platoon leader in H-3-26. He heroically led survivors of this casualty-depleted platoon in sustained fighting until he was wounded and evacuated. For his actions, Lt Leman was awarded a Silver Star for gallantry and intrepidity.

Recovering from his wounds he returned to H-3-26 at Camp Tarawa and served as a platoon leader through the occupation at Sasebo and the Palau Islands. Discharged on return to the states, he went to medical school and became a surgeon, practicing in Oregon.

Through the many years after Iwo, Craig Leman remained close to the men he led and was a long time member of the 5th Marine Division Association and of IJAA. He was also a frequent contributor to the *Spearhead News*. ❖

“A Different Kind of War Story”

(by Valerie Leman, Daughter of Craig B. Leman H-3-26)

Craig B. Leman (CBL) (H-3-26), who passed away in 2014 at the age of 91, was once a Marine, always a Marine. In the car on family vacations, we would all sing the Marine Corps Hymn and the Ballad of Roger Young. We would also try to get my Dad going on telling us his interesting war stories. His World War II experience started out as a member of the almost 400-person class of the only WWII Special Officer Training School (SOCS) program. Half of its newly minted 2d Lts. were sent to Iwo Jima and half to Okinawa. CBL, in 1940 a student at the University of Chicago, transferred to Northwestern in IL. in 1943 as part of the Navy-Marine V-12 Officer Training program.

While CBL was at Northwestern for the V-12 class, there were 1500 other officer candidates (Navy and Marine Corps). CBL won first place in the physical fitness test for the recruits (sit-ups, pull-ups, push-ups, squat thrusts, and the Burpee maneuver). Nobody expected a University of Chicago "nerd" to beat the other athlete recruits, who included an All-American end, a Big Ten swim champion, and other standouts. CBL temporarily wore the skin off his behind doing sit-ups. His well-meaning friends helpfully suggested applying shaving cream, which stung.

Basic Training: In 1944, the saying was that the Japanese would be "at the Golden Gate in 1948," as it was believed that the war would last a long time. CBL's studies were accordingly interrupted in January 1944, when 25 of the 400-man unit were picked out for basic training, to be combined with Marine Corps draftees and

Continued pg 2 A Different Kind of War Story

enlistees at Parris Island, to fill out a 50 person regular platoon class. (The other 375 waited for basic training until March 1944.) This platoon was unique; all other officer candidates were segregated and not merged with regular enlistees. There were also a few draftees who had chosen service with the Marines—miners, farm workers, college drop-outs, merchant seamen.

CBL recalled: “A bus met the train at night at the nearest town (Yemassee). As we marched off, passers-by all yelled at us, “You’ll be sorry!!” as the drill-instructors screamed at us. Next morning we were stripped, showered, deloused, and then lined up to get our metal ID Disks (dog-tags) to wear around our necks 24-7. A bored corporal with a New York accent took our info—name, DOB, religion, etc. The two men ahead of me gave him problems. The first was a fellow U of C man who had been born in China. Asked his religion, he replied “Buddhist!”

“What?!!!!!!?”

“I’m BUDDHIST!!”

“Look, Mac! I got no time for jokes. In this man’s outfit you’re either a Catholic, Protestant, or Hebrew, see? Now which are you?” “I’m none of those. I’m a Buddhist!!” “Jesus Christ. You’re a PROTESTANT!!” And the Corporal punched the machine, stamping “P” on his dog tag.

When the next man stood before him, the Corporal said, with heavy sarcasm: “I suppose you’re a Buddhist too.”

The recruit replied, calmly, “I have no religion.” The Corporal shrugged, muttered, “Another Protestant,” and punched the “P.”

In general, CBL remembered that “We V-12ers held our own with and got along well with the regular recruits who were from widely diverse backgrounds. The man next to me in the alphabet, and therefore in all our formations, was an 18 year old draftee, born in Maine but raised in French-speaking Montreal, who spoke almost no English. Although he wanted to fight against Germany, he did not want to be in the Canadian Army with “dem goddam squareheads”--

(the longest English phrase he ever expressed, referring to English-speaking Canadians of Brit ancestry.) Since I had studied French in high school, I was able to help him survive boot camp, interpreting for him and explaining his situation to instructors, who assumed he was stupid or disobedient when he did not respond to their commands. In formation, a raging corporal would confront him, screaming profanities 6 inches from his face as we stood at attention. I intervened, saying--

“Sir--” and this dialogue ensued:

“SHUT UP!!!!”

“But Sir, he doesn’t speak English.”

“What the hell you mean he can’t speak English?”

“Sir, he’s from Canada and they speak only French where he lives.”

(Quietly, and almost wistfully) “Well, I’ll be a sad sack of shit! What is happening to this goddam outfit?”

---Also at Parris Island, some drill instructors hated the college boys. One of them told them, “you think you’re so smart, and I hear you have to have an IQ of 125 to pass your test, I have an IQ of 98 and I’m the one running you around!!” One of the men in back yelled, “Who helped you?” Everybody snickered and the drill instructor demanded that they give up that speaker or they would never get out of training, but they refused to give him up.

Combat at Iwo Jima: CBL’s story is fully told in his memoir, A Marine Goes to War in the Battle of Iwo Jima, privately published in 2011, as a follow-up to his library of Congress oral history. Through the efforts of Ray Elliott, it is available online as follows: <http://www.talespress.com/AMarineGoesToWar.pdf>

One story that didn’t fully make it into the memoir was about a colorful Marine that CBL knew, Rea Duncan, who had deserted USMC to volunteer for the Canadian Army when WW II began, became a sergeant major there, and then deserted after Pearl Harbor to rejoin USMC. As a company commander on Iwo Jima, he was knocked down twice by bullets before going down for the count from a bullet through the abdomen.

Continued pg 3 A Different Kind of War Story

Evacuated to a ship offshore some hours later, he was examined by a surgeon who pronounced him so badly injured and so far gone that he was beyond salvation; he ordered a shot of morphine and removal to the room for the deceased. A few minutes later, the surgeon heard an explosion of wild profanity. "You rotten son of a bitch!! Stealing from a dead man!!!" An avaricious corpsman had tried to lift Rea's wristwatch, which his wife had given him just before we sailed. Near death, Rea reacted in his usual way. The surgeon responded: "If he can yell like that, bring him back, and we'll give it a try!" Two years later CBL used to visit him at Great Lakes Hospital where he was still having reconstructive surgery.

During the Postwar Period: After the Iwo Jima campaign and CBL's three weeks in hospital on Guam recovering from his head wound, he recalled: "I was sent on a fast carrier to the big island of Hawaii in early May, 1945. With the exhausted Division, my company returned to Camp Tarawa, base camp, to prepare for the next campaign, the invasion of Japan.

"After August 1945, when the bombs were dropped and Japan surrendered, my unit and I were sent to the island of Palau to assist in mopping up operations, as there were many Japanese stragglers still at large." It was an exciting eventful time, while CBL was serving as the operations officer with the battalion. On patrol alone, he surprised three stragglers in a hideout, giving each other haircuts and took them into custody. The battalion was keeping an eye on 30,000 Japanese soldiers till they could be transported home to Japan. CBL visited a Navy minesweeper and discovered that his friend, Dick Bobvjerg, brother of a good friend, was their captain and had just returned to the U.S., leaving behind a family picture on the cabin wall that CBL recognized

On Palau, CBL had to attend an uncomfortable meeting with senior Japanese officers. They were served tea and sake by Korean "comfort women," which made CBL uncomfortable. The Marines were never glad

to host sight-seeing naval officers who came through, because those were executive headquarters types. When they asked to see Japanese tunnels, caves, and hideouts, CBL was happy to take them to the dirtiest, dampest, closest-quartered, and hardest-to-navigate dungeons, as far as possible outside the comfort zone of sight-seeing naval officers. On this visit to the main island of Babelthup, formerly Japanese-held, CBL met a German Lutheran missionary who had been on Palau throughout the war, and they watched Palauan children dancing in a festival—the only time he saw Palauans during the two months he was there. Many years later, in the early 1990s, he visited Palau and served as a fill-in doctor for 3 months. He and his wife Nancy found only a few old people who remembered those hard times of WW 2.

While on Palau, CBL was assigned to be recorder (essentially, prosecutor) at a summary court martial of a Marine for insubordination. The Marine had sassed a Navy Captain who had a female interpreter, who was basically a comfort woman, by saying in the midst of a traffic altercation, "We don't carry on like this where I come from!!" (the U. S. South). With no judicial or legal training or experience whatsoever, CBL prepared for his assignment by studying the records of five recent general court-martials. In the case he prosecuted, he was opposed by a wily defense attorney, Penrod Harris, who was to spend the rest of his career in the F.B.I. Harris aimed to show that the Captain took advantage of his position by employing an interpreter who could not interpret but who obviously had other attributes that the Captain appreciated. CBL felt overmatched by the defense attorney, who had been a lawyer in civilian life. The three-officer panel split 2-1 in favor of acquittal. The Marine Regimental Colonel was embarrassed, as the record left little doubt that the young Marine had indeed sassed the Navy Captain. He vented his wrath on a member of the panel who had voted for acquittal, delaying his return to the USA, pending an "investigation" of the case. Fortunately for CBL, the record was in order, so he was permitted to depart for home.

Continued pg 4 A Different Kind of War Story

CBL was discharged from the Marine Corps on March 1, 1946 at Great Lakes, Illinois. The records available made no mention of his head wound from Iwo Jima, which was still draining pus and blood. He was sent for medical evaluation. The surgeon took x-rays of his skull and showed him the films, revealing fragments of the bullet and sand next to the skull, explaining that there was infection from these foreign bodies and that the drainage would continue till they were removed. He gave CBL the choice of making an appointment for an operation or doing it right then, giving up his lunch hour, which would save CBL a train trip. He did the hour-long procedure using local anesthesia in his office, removing the sand and metal, sewed it up, and the problem was solved. A VA employee asked CBL what per cent disability he wished to claim!! He chose not to take any.

He then returned to the University of Chicago after the war (for pre-med courses). He was motivated to do so by his experience on Iwo seeing half dead, grey Marines going into surgery and coming out pink and alive. Eventually, the G.I. Bill paid for two-and-a-half years of Harvard Medical School, and when that ran out, he worked three nights a week at the Boston City Hospital Morgue and participated in medical studies to pay the bills.

Later in life, Craig Leman became an active member of the FMDA and a contributor the Spearhead. Throughout his life, he worked hard to keep up his ties with the men with whom he served, and to educate others who wrote him to ask about Marines with whom he had served. ❖

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

LIFE MEMBERS

BUTLER, Clinton R. – Shelbyville, TN
 GARREN, Steven – Petaluma, CA
 PITTMAN-WALLER, Mary Virginia – San Antonio, TX
 SMITH, W. L. - Manassas, VA
 DAVIS, William – Woodbridge, VA

ANNUAL MEMBERS

DE OTTE, James E. – Fort Worth, TX
 HAGOOD, Dan – Dallas, TX
 SARGENT, James W. III – Dallas, TX
 CHRISTIE, Gene – Bradenton, FL
 WILLIAMS, Terrie – Alvord, TX
 GAGEN, Miscese – Livingston, MT

MEMORIAL MEMBERS

FORD, Betty J. – Arnold, MO
 GRUBER, Lois – Newcastle, CA
 JACKSON, Joan - Dallas, TX
 OLSON, Elaine – Reedsburg, WI
 OZMENT, Leilani – Virginia Beach, VA
 RUSSELL, Venita – San Francisco, CA
 SCHUTT, Margaret – Hixson, TN
 STROPE, Barbara – Emerald Isle, NC
 DEERE, Margie – Tulsa, OK
 DOSSETT, Charlene – Van Buren, AR
 GALVIN, Dorothy – Pawling, NY
 GRIFFITHS, Florence – Girard, OH
 HEAD, Norma – Phoenix, AZ
 McMELLON, Sheila – Portland, CT
 VOIGHT, Grace – Plainfield, IN
 COHEN, Mrs. – Scottsdale, AZ

Attention Members:

Does anyone recognize this cherished pin, what it was awarded for, and when? If so, please contact FMDA Webmaster Kath Butler at kbutler813@verizon.net Thanks!



Excerpts from *Pvt Brown's Diary* by Ken Brown
 "How I became a Chaplain's Assistant"
 (abridged and condensed)

..."The training at Camp Pendleton was extremely difficult and taxed my physical energies to the utmost. Then something happened which took me out of the machine guns and rather changed my future. I got a 'Dear John' letter. I didn't think it would ever happen to me, but it did. The next few days were pure misery. With the mental anguish I was going through I was sure I was going to crack up...

"...I was told in the Marine Corps anytime you get into such difficulty, you should go to the Chaplain. The C.O. thought I was just trying to get out of duty, but he had to comply with my request. But when I got to the Regimental Chaplain's office, he was on leave. I was ready to call it quits, but the jeep driver who had been told by the C.O. to take me to a Chaplain said, no, that by blanky-blank I was going to see one. So he took me to the Division Chaplain. I was plenty scared because I knew that the Division Chaplain was on the General's staff.

"...The driver shoved me in the door and there sat a full Commander in the Navy. I had never seen such a high ranking officer before. He held a big black cigar in his mouth and with all that gold braid looked plenty formidable to me. He was very friendly, however, and asked me how he could help me... Well, I told him the whole story of how my girl had gone and married another fellow. He listened sympathetically, asked me how much money I had. From my billfold I counted out a dollar and twenty-eight cents. He told me that it wasn't enough. He then reached into his pocket and pulled out a twenty dollar bill and shoved it toward me....'Private Brown, 'he said, 'there's only one thing that's going to get you to felling better and that's to get this worry completely off you mind. You've got to do something that will dull the pain and the best thing I know of is alcohol.' ...I picked up the twenty dollars and left... but when I got outside and went to put the money in my billfold I saw my identity card certifying me as an Elder in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

I turned around, went back and told the Commander that I surely appreciated his offer... but that I didn't drink. 'What do you mean, you don't drink? You're a Marine aren't you.' I had to admit that I was a Mormon and didn't smoke either...



"... The Chaplain asked me a lot of other questions, a real interview, about my moral standards, and whether I was a gambler. Then he surprised me by asking other questions such as whether I could sing and lead music and if I could type at least 60 words a minute, all of which I said I could. Lastly, he asked if I used profanity. I told him I never had and that swearing was against my religion too. "That settle it," he said, "if there is one man in this outfit who doesn't cuss, drink or smoke, gamble or chase women, I want him in my office. How would you like to be my assistant?"

That's how I got to be a Chaplain's Assistant to Comdr. Warren F. Cuthriell, Division Chaplain. He sent me down to the Personnel Office and they arranged to have me transferred to Div. Hdqts, Hdqts Bn, Hdqts Co. to work for one of the finest men I'll ever know, a truly Christian gentleman. ❖

Farwell to Monroe Ozment Gone to Guard the Streets of Heaven

(right) FMDA Sgt-in-Arms and Trustee and also host, with his wife Leilani, of the 66th Annual Reunion in Virginia Beach.

The Virginia Beach Pilot printed the following words about Monroe on his passing in February of this year. "Monroe never met a stranger; he will also be remembered by good friends and neighbors for his wonderful sense of humor and easy going demeanor." True words. To which we add that Monroe was a wonderfully devoted friend to his Marine comrades as well as being devoted to his family. He enjoyed connecting with his 5th Marine Division buddies and attending their reunions over 20 years.

The extent of his solidarity with his Marine buddies was shown by his friendship with George James, a Navajo Code Talker. The two served together in the 2/28 Communications Platoon. They had met at Camp Pendleton and were bivouacked in the same Headquarters Company at Camp Tarawa for the long training there. Monroe was wounded on the beach during the landings and was evacuated. By the time he got out of the hospital the Iwo campaign was over and his unit had returned to Hawaii. He rejoined them at Camp Tarawa and caught up with George. Then the two friends went to Japan together for the Occupation.

Monroe returned to his home state of Georgia, attended the University of Georgia where he earned a degree in accounting and became a Controller for Sears. George returned to the Navajo reservation and continued sheep farming. The two lost contact; then on the 50th Anniversary of the landing, Monroe met another Code Talker who knew George and his whereabouts.

So on a following trip west Monroe and Leilani drove many miles out to the James home, tucked miles into the Navajo Reservation. The two did not connect at that time as James was out herding. But Monroe persisted, and the two old friends were able to reunite for the first time in 53 years in 1999 at the FMDA reunion in Albuquerque, where Monroe sponsored George's attendance.

With no telephone at George's home, the two again lost touch. But fast forward another 15 years, to another FMDA Reunion, this time in Tampa, Florida. The Association flew in George as the only Code Talker in attendance and again Monroe met up with his old friend for a memorable reuniting ❖



After retirement Monroe enjoyed extensive travel with Leilani; he was also an avid golfer and was proud of his holes-in-ones. He had an affinity for all animals, especially his dog Buddy.

Monroe Ozment will be sorely missed by his FMDA family. His and Leilani's presence at our reunions was a light in the room. The FMDA family extends their condolence to Leilani and their children and grandchildren.

By any and all measures Monroe was a true friend and true Marine.



Final Muster

("Roll Call of the Reef")

<i>Name</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>DOD</i>
Bailey, Robert B.	A-1-27	11/21/2017
Bogges, Robert E.	K-4-13	1/4/2010
Bowling, Troy	E-2-27	6/17/2017
Camilli, Louis	HS-8THSERV	6/19/2019
Chappell, Howard E.	HQ-2-26	9/18/2017
Chatelain, Stanley L.	B-1-26	8/17/2011
Clemens, Robert F.	5thMT	5/31/2019
Cohen, Meyer	K-4-13	1/31/2020
Correll, Oral C. "Ben"	A-1-28	6/26/1979
Cubbins, Thomas D., Jr.	5THSIG	1/2/2019
Day, Jack H.	WPNS-28	4/23/2018
Deere, Herman G.	HQ-2-28	11/18/2007
Dossett, O. Dewey	HQ-1-13	1/30/2020
Ford, Lloyd Jr.	5TH TANK	9/25/2015
Galvin, Martin J.	HQ-3-26	4/19/2019
Griffiths, Ralph K	E-2-28	6/25/2019
Gruber, James	5TH PIONEER	6/29/2019
Haverstock, Elden E.	B-5thENGR	5/11/2011
Head, Jim	5005-5-26	12/5/2019
Jackson, Clyde W.	F-2-28	2/23/2020
Jeter, Tracy	B-1-26	8/1/2018
Kling, Robert E.	F-2-27	Jun-2015
Lanter, Voyit J.	I-3-27	9/23/2015
Leonard, Morgan F.	G-3-27	9/29/2011
Lippincott, Walter T.	5thSERV	1/16/2019
Marshall, Roger L.	HQ-26	11/2/2016
McCullar, Wallace B.	9TH MAW	2/25/2017
McGough, Thomas P.	I-3-27	11/30/2012
McMellon, Thomas	HQ-5thENGR	10/24/2014
Meisenheimer, William A.	B-1-28	1/30/2012
Morgan, SR, Thomas B.	5THDUKW	5/8/2013
Mueller, Robert C.	D-2-28	4/18/2020
Muich, Edward E.	F-2-26	1/31/2018
Oestreich, Lawrence C.	HQ-1-27	5/7/2007
Olson, Leo J.	C-1-27	11/27/2019
Ozment, Monroe S.	HQ-2-28	2/22/2020
Pehl, Willis G.	HQ-2-27	6/24/2016
Penrod, David L.	HQ-3-26	2/22/2018
Prestella, Don W.	F-2-26	11/11/2008
Reeves, John H.	M-4-13	2/26/2018
Reinholt, David D.	WPNS-28	1/1/2020
Roland, Thomas M.	I-3-13	12/15/2019
Russell, Jack	F-2-26	4/9/2016
Scarfo, John J.	E-2-27	2/2/2020
Schutt, Clarence A., Jr	5TH PIONEER	2/9/2019

Please send Final Muster notices (including name, unit, and date of death) by mail to 5th Marine Division Association, P.O. Box 728, Weatherford, TX 76086. by calling 817-296-6487, or by email to thuffhines74@gmail.com

Members:

If you have a change of address, new telephone number or email, please notify Vice President Tom Huffhines at any contact listed above. The post office does not forward newsletters and we do not want to lose contact with you!



Stone, John A.	4THMARDIV	Dec-2011
Strope, John H..	H-3-28	7/28/2019
Tilghman, Richard A.	F-2-27	2/23/2017
Trimble, Emert	D-2-28	7/26/2011
Van Landingham, A.J.	I-3-13	11/10/2017
Vaughn, Charles	G-3-28	12/19/2016
Voight, Virgil V.	1STMARDIV	7/19/2019
Vouros, George J.	DD 589	3/26/2020
Walker, Richard S.	G-3-27	12/2/2018
Wolf, Howard L.	5thPIONEER	10/18/2016
Yeager, W.C. "Pete"	I-3-26	1/26/2011
Zuelly, Ralph H.	E-2-28	1/18/2018



FMDA to sponsor performances of 'The American Soldier'

The Fifth Marine Division Association is proud to sponsor two live performances of "The American Soldier" **Aug. 27 and 28 at the Granbury Live Theater** in Granbury, Texas, which is 25 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

"The American Soldier" is a one-man play created and performed by actor Douglas Taurel, based on actual letters written by veterans and their family members from the American Revolution through to the war in Afghanistan. "The play touches on many aspects of war and explores the bravery our veterans and families face day-to-day as they return home from combat," Taurel says. "It brings awareness for the sacrifices our veterans and their families have made for our country and, more importantly, it says thank you to them."

Advance tickets for the Granbury, Texas, shows will go on sale in June, and more information will be available at websites: <https://the-newgranburylive.com> and <https://www.theamericansoldiersoloshow.com>. Immediately following each of the performances, Taurel will host a question-and-answer period with the audience. ❖



STRONG MEMBERSHIP = STRONG FMDA

Annual memberships are due for renewal by Dec. 31 each year. If you have not renewed

your membership, please send in your \$25 dues today.

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

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



We Can Do It

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

By mounting an active membership registration program, we can revitalize our organization, instead of passively allowing our numbers to shrink. Marines are not passive, and we should not be passive, either! Someone at the reunion said, "Less is best." Why settle? Marines are not passive, and never give up, so neither should we. Remember the "devil dogs" of Belleau Wood! Even as FMDA has achieved great things in the past, I believe we can still do so by swelling our membership rolls.

Semper Fidelis, Bruce Hammond, 2020 President FMDA

**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Pvt OLIVER CLAYTON FRANCISCO
1-3-26 Iwo Survivor**

(Honored by Rebecca Francisco Gibson)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**2ND Lt ROBERT E. SCHUELZKY
E-2-28 KIA Iwo Jima**

(Honored by Robert E. Schuelzky Jr.)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**SSgt LEON TRAINOR, JR
HQ-26 – Iwo Survivor**

(Honored by Steve, Mike, & Randy Trainor)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Pfc EDWARD JOSEPH GENGLER
A-1-28 KIA Iwo Jima**

(Honored by Randy VanDyken)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Major JAMES A. HARRINGTON
Iwo Pfc H&S 2-13 machine gunner
TechSgt Korea 2-5 1stDiv– Outpost
Battles; Vietnam Officer '65-'66**

(Honored by Marion Harrington)



**TRIBUTE OF HONOR
MEMORIAL HONOREE**



**Pfc CHARLES JONAITIS
4th Marines – Fall of Corregidor - Bataan
Death March - POW Manilla – onboard
Arisan Maru when sunk**

(Honored by Dorothy Prose)



Stand By and Heads-up

In the next Newsletter, look for

Articles on FMDA's Three War Veterans

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



Gunner Sam Jones

On Iwo Jima – 81 MM mortar platoon and later rifleman in "T" company 3/28

In Korea – Forward observer for 81 mm mortar platoon 1st MarDiv at Chosin Reservoir

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

Gunner Jones was a Member of the Marine Corps Rifle & Pistol Team

Sgt Major George Boutwell

On Iwo Jima – 5th 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 pulled off to train and man the heaviest artillery piece, the 155mm howitzer

In Vietnam – 1st Sgt, Alpha Company, 3rd 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

Staff Sgt Al Nelson

On Iwo Jima - 5th Tank BN – driver of Sherman medium tank

In Korea – 1st Tank BN (1st Marine Division)

In Vietnam – 3rd Amtrac BN – 1st MarDiv

Sgt Nelson is a member of the Marine Corps Tankers Association

A Tribute to Bob Mueller

The Forgotten Unit 386 ASG USAAF

Information on the planned May 12-16, 2021

FMDA Reunion in Dallas

And more!

Moving Forward: *by Tom Huffhines* **Accomplishments since the last Reunion**

- Board decision to make the FMDA exclusively an all-volunteer operated organization, eliminating any and all stipends or salaries.
- New 7 trustee Board replacements: Bill Baumann (Vietnam 26thMarines), George Boutwell (Iwo Jima Veteran) and Valerie Leman (Legacy member.)
- New Appointed Positions adopted and appointments of capable and active Association members.
- The appointment of Kathy Tinsley as Membership Recruiting Manager.
- An exhaustive review of the 1999 FMDA Constitution and the 2019 version of proposed Bylaws have been concluded and a 2020 set of proposed Bylaws has been completed for presentation to the membership for a vote at the next General Business Meeting.
- A comprehensive review and updating of the Association Database.
- A proposed interactive website development by Association President Bruce Hammond
- **In closing and on behalf of the Association, I want to extend to Ray Elliott and Doug Meny a heart-felt appreciation for their years of service.** These men truly believe in the preservation of memories of the Marine Corps and in particular the 5th Marine Division Marines. They each have befriended, traveled with, helped, and written about many of our veterans. These kind actions will never be forgotten. **We also want to sincerely thank Kathy Painton for her years of dedicated work to bring the Camp Tarawa Museum to a reality, helping to preserve our legacy.**



**KILROY
WAS
HERE**

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 728

WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76086

Forwarding Service Requested

5th Marine Division Association - Membership and Donation Form

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

All annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time. (Make checks payable to 5th Marine Division Assoc)

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

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

Legacy () Name & rank of Veteran _____

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

Associate ()

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email _____

Dues (please check):

() Annual \$ 25

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

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

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

Donation:

() General Fund\$ _____

TOTAL\$ _____