

July 2024



# The Spearhead News

Official Newsletter of the Fifth Marine Division Association  
Website – <https://5thMarineDivision.org>  
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## Our Legacy by Alfredo Cooke

Our Iwo Jima Marines continued the legacy of those who fought at Belleau Wood, Chateau Thierry, and the Meuse Argonne in France in World War I, and they lived up to that standard! In the same way, our 5th Marine Division Marines in Vietnam drew upon the traditions established by our 5<sup>th</sup> Division Iwo Jima Marines.

The style of warfare in Vietnam differed from that of World War II, but like the Marines who fought at Iwo Jima, the Marines who fought in Vietnam were confronted with a multitude of challenges. These included guerrilla warfare tactics and navigating through dense jungles. However, they showed remarkable adaptability and resilience in the face of adversity, just as their predecessors did on Iwo.

Camaraderie and brotherhood among Marines are bonds formed during intense combat. The Marines who fought in Iwo Jima and Vietnam know this firsthand, as they understand what it means to have courage and a willingness to sacrifice for their country.

The Marines who fought in Iwo Jima and Vietnam were determined to complete their missions, whether it was securing the island, conducting search and destroy missions, providing security to villages, or engaging in fierce combat with the enemy. Their bravery and heroism have contributed to the enduring legacy of the Marine Corps. The sacrifices made by these courageous Marines – veterans of Iwo Jima and Vietnam are honored and remembered by subsequent generations of Marines and their families.

**Welcome to San Antonio...** "Why San Antonio?" you might ask. Well, aside from the fact that many people appreciate and enjoy this



beautiful city, there is another reason why it is fitting to gather here. You see, those who defended the Alamo, our Marines at Iwo Jima, and those who fought in Vietnam have much in common –

**Courage and Sacrifice:** All three groups demonstrated exceptional courage and made significant sacrifices to achieve their goals. The defenders of the Alamo were surrounded by thousands of Mexicans, but they bravely chose to stand and fight for the independence of Texas. The Marines who fought at Iwo Jima showed fierce determination as they battled against entrenched Japanese forces, enduring heavy casualties to secure a critical victory in the Pacific during World War II. Similarly, Vietnam veterans faced challenging conditions and significant dangers as they fought against the Communist NVA, and even upon returning home.

( Continued on Page 3 )



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**TRIBUTE OF HONOR**  
**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMORIAL DONATION**



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

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

FMDA is a 501c3, not-for-profit organization. An acknowledgment of your gift will be sent to you at your address listed below.

Please check here  if you would like an additional letter sent to the Honoree or his family without the dollar amount included. Please provide that address on the back of this copied form.

**Your name**

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

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

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

KIA date or DOD if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ to veteran

Amount of donation \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued from page 1 )

**Symbolism of Defiance:** The Alamo defenders, the Marines who fought at Iwo Jima, and the veterans of the Vietnam War demonstrated immense resilience and defiance in the face of adversity. Their stories have been immortalized in history as symbols of the fighting spirit and unwavering determination of those who refused to surrender, even when the odds were stacked against them.

**Iconic Imagery:** Each group is associated with iconic imagery that has become ingrained in the public consciousness. The image of the Alamo, a small mission, has come to symbolize the spirit of resistance and independence. The photograph of Marines raising the American flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima is one of the most iconic images of World War II, representing the triumph of the Allied forces in the Pacific. Vietnam veterans are often associated with powerful images like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., and the haunting photographs that captured the realities of modern warfare.

This year's 5th Marine Division Association reunion is more than a gathering of old and new friends. It's more than sitting down for a nice enjoyable meal and talking about old times. Our time here in San Antonio right next to the Alamo, is about forging a legacy of true American values, thrusting that iron into the fire, and making our history permanent by announcing to all Americans that their freedom was bought and paid for by the sacrifices of so many of our brothers who spilled their blood.

It's about renewing our commitment to service and duty, both to our country and to each other. As we come together in fellowship, we recognize the enduring bonds forged in the crucible of war and the resilience of the human spirit. It's a testament to the courage and resilience of those who served, and a reminder that the freedoms we cherish are not to be taken for granted. In the spirit of unity, we stand as a living tribute to the legacy of the 5th Marine Division, ensuring that their sacrifices are woven into the fabric of American identity for generations to come.  
**Viva Alamo!!!**

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## PRESIDENT 'S MESSAGE



Greetings! I hope this summer season brings warmth, sunshine, and good fortune to all.

FMDA remains committed to honoring all 5th Division Marines who fought on Iwo Jima. They continue to provide a heroic legacy for all Marines and Americans of

honor, bravery, and the will to succeed. We also honor all 5th Division Marines from Vietnam as well as Marines from all eras and those who honor their service.

I hope you will be able to attend our next reunion which will be held in San Antonio, Texas 16-20 October 2024. This will include a visit to the National Museum of the Pacific War, as well as several presentations on Iwo Jima and Vietnam Marine Corps operations as well as a special presentation by our banquet speaker, former Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Harold G. Overstreet.

My thanks go out to Alfredo Cooke and Tom Huffhines for their outstanding efforts in organizing this forthcoming reunion!

*Skip Werthmuller, Captain USN (ret)*

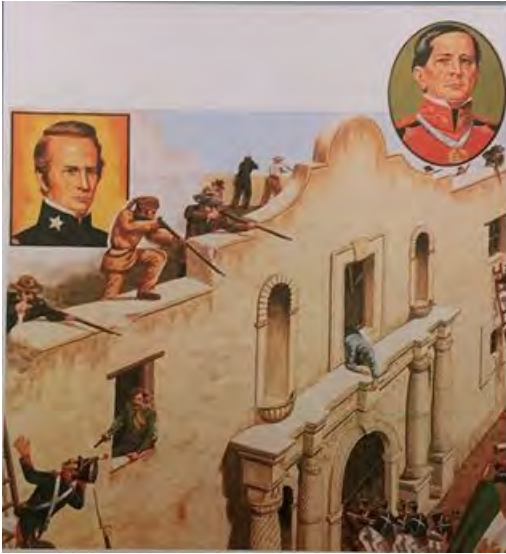
### A Reminder:

Any member wishing to contribute to this year's FMDA's Raffle/ fund raiser by contributing a military themed item, please notify Cheryl Kozak (email rckoz@yahoo.com) so that she can plan the event. The U.S. Marine Corps quilt, won at the 2023 reunion by Claudia Hammond Brown, will again be re-raffled for the year. The raffle items will be set up Wednesday and the drawing will be Friday. Thank you in advance.



# Address at the Alamo, 06 March 2023 (Abridged)

“To the People of Texas and All Americans in the World--- I am besieged by a thousand or more...under Santa Anna... I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours... The enemy has demanded surrender at discretion... I have answered the demand with a cannon shot... **And our flag still waves proudly...**”



Those were the words of Lt Colonel William Barrett Travis in his most famous letter from the Alamo in 1836. But Travis’ unforgettable words **could** describe as well the deeds of those Marines on Iwo Jima, February 23, 1945, the fifth day of a thirty-six day battle. The bloodiest battle in the storied history. The Marines fought to seize a small, strategically placed island, the first Japanese home territory conquered, barely more than eight square miles of hot, volcanic black sand, poisonously honeycombed with tunnels and caves, with concealed artillery emplacements, with mortars and machine guns—all the weapons that blanketed the battlefield with interlocking fields of fire designed to lure, then trap, then kill, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Marine divisions charged with the task of taking the island. **But take it those Marines did.**

---**Our flag still waves proudly.** “All Americans in the World know and will never forget the image of those Marines raising our flag on Mt. Suribachi.”

That image was captured by photographer Joe Rosenthal in just 1/400<sup>th</sup> of a second, 78 years ago. That image forever flying, thanks to the courage, sacrifice, and dedication to duty demonstrated by those many Marines at Iwo Jima in 1945; that image kept alive HERE, TODAY, by THESE few, these proud Marines, as we honor them here on the battleground of other heroes at another time.

So let us remember and weigh those days—February 23<sup>rd</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1836, and February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 26, 1945. The weapons of war, the tools of the trade were very different at the Alamo in 1836 from the ones wielded on Iwo Jima in 1945: single shot flintlocks instead of flamethrowers; muzzle-loading artillery instead of satchel charges packed with 22 pounds on TNT; Kentucky rifles in place of M1 Garands; muskets rather than machine guns. The accidents of weaponry change; the essence of courage in combat endures throughout the ages.

Both those Defenders of the Alamo and those Marines were “citizen soldiers.” In many cases, barely more than boys whom boot camp and combat made into men.

Travis, in a letter to the Convention that declared Texas independence during the siege, and only days before his own death, described the “desperate courage and determined valor” of the men under his command. Admiral Chester Nimitz said, “Among the Americans who served on Iwo island, uncommon valor was a common virtue.” Corporal Chuck Lindberg among the raisers of the first flag on Suribachi, said, “Every man that went ashore at Iwo, and every man at sea, raised the flag—every one. We carried it up there, and we had our hands on the pole, but every one of you raised it, and most of all, the men who didn’t come back—they all raised it.”

Today, these veterans honor us by means of their presence here. Thank you, and Semper Fidelis! ❖



## TRIBUTE OF HONOR

### MEMORIAL HONOREE



## Cpl. JOHN F. HUFFHINES

HQ 3-13 5<sup>th</sup> Division on Iwo Jima;  
Past FMDA President & Reunion Host



(Honored by Tom Huffhines, son)

## TRIBUTE OF HONOR

### MEMORIAL HONOREE



## Sgt. IVAN HAMMOND

5<sup>th</sup> JASCO on Iwo Jima;  
Past FMDA President & Reunion Host



(Honored by John Butler, friend)

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## Photos from the 2023 San Antonio Banquet



### TABLE # 1

President Skip Werthmuller

Including  
Banquet Guest Speaker  
General Mike Hagee,  
33<sup>rd</sup> Commandant of the  
Marine Corps

### TABLE # 2

VP Bill Baumann

Including  
Guest Chaplain  
Deacon Don Bradley







TABLE # 3  
Iwo Jima Vet  
Ivan Hammond



TABLE # 4  
Vietnam vets  
and Guests  
with Liberty Phillips



TABLE # 5  
Iwo Jima Vet  
Leighton Willhite



TABLE # 6  
Iwo Jima vet  
Ken Brown



TABLE # 7  
Reunion Host  
Tom Huffhines



TABLE # 8  
Treasurer  
Doug Meny



TABLE # 9  
Secretary  
Karen Campbell



TABLE # 10  
Fund Raiser  
Cheryl Kozak



# DOING MY DUTY: THE ARMY AIRMAN AND THE MARINES

By Colonel Charles A. Jones USMCR (Retired)



(On left WWII photo of Lt Elmer Jones)

I joined the Marine Corps in 1980 after completing law school; attended Officer Candidate's School; and became a judge advocate (military lawyer). I chose the

Marine Corps because I wanted to earn my lieutenant's bars: I believe strongly in "Earned—Never Given."

Years later when promoted to colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, I experienced the classic Marine Corps promotion ceremony. My mentor, Colonel Dennis Clancey (26<sup>th</sup> Marines –Vietnam—and a fellow judge advocate) was excited as he pinned a colonel's eagle on one of the collars of my camouflaged uniform. But my father, Lieutenant Colonel Elmer C. Jones USAFR (Retired), was infinitely more excited about my promotion as he pinned an eagle on the other collar. I think he was ecstatic because I was the only Marine and colonel in the family and he had only made lieutenant colonel when he retired from the Air Force Reserve.

That was my father, however: excited about anything to do with the Marine Corps although he would never have joined it. As a young man before World War Two, he had seen the classic movie *ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT* and had decided he wanted *no* part of the infantry.

In true governmental workings he was drafted in 1943—of all places into the ground Army. But never has an application for transfer to the Army Air Corps been completed and accepted so quickly.

After abbreviated college-level training, on 1 July 1944 he accepted an appointment as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps, part of the U.S. Army Air Forces (the Air Force did not become an independent service until 1947).

Next was navigation and radar operator's school followed by assignment to crew P-10 in the 39<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group with the "P" representing "39." The plane's names were "*DOUBLE TROUBLE*" and *CITY OF MAYWOOD*.

Next stop: Kwajalein on the way to base in Guam. The Kwajalein Marines greeted the crew warmly and told it the tragic news that President Franklin Roosevelt had died; that news is how my father learned the Commander in Chief was dead. Then off to a Marine-cooked SPAM meal; my father hated SPAM but was convinced that Marines had the only cooks who could make it edible.

His next expression of gratitude was for Marines capturing Guam in 1944 so the 39<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group would have a base from which to bomb Japan. Until I read a book in 2015 about the Battle of Guam, I did not realize how vicious the fighting was when the Marines and the Army conquered it. From Guam the crew would fly 13 bombing missions and 15 photoreconnaissance missions.

The most important connection my father had to the Marine Corps was Iwo Jima which was conquered at such high price

Iwo proved to be a much-needed landing base for B-29s flying to or returning from "the Empire" as one of my father's crew members called Japan. My father's crew landed there twice.

The first stop was for fuel upon returning from a mission over Japan; the crew could obtain only enough fuel to reach Tinian where the crew obtained more fuel so it could return to its base on nearby Guam. Ironically, my father, flying so much over the Pacific, could not swim. Had Iwo not been available, the crew would have had to ditch or parachute and thus someone else would be writing this essay.

The second stop was on the way to Japan when the plane developed mechanical problems. The aircraft commander (the "pilot" in the B-29) contacted headquarters on Guam and was told emphatically to have the plane repaired and to fly the mission, which he did. My father's crew excelled at photographic photoreconnaissance (radar photography), and the mission was needed to obtain coverage of two cities on the atomic bomb option list: Hiroshima and Kokura. My father was a highly skilled radar observer with a good radar set.



During one stop he walked to the top of Mount Suribachi.

The crew managed to skip Iwo Jima when it flew the longest combat aviation mission of the war. The mission was “single ship” which meant alone; no escorts; and no “lifeguards” of submarines and surface ships lining the route for a typical bombing mission to pick up downed crews. And of course no aerial refueling was possible. The mission lasted

23:00 hours from Guam to Northern Japan to Guam: 4,650 miles. Not expecting a B-29 so far north, the Japanese turned the landing lights on for the crew at Sapporo, but wisely The Double Trouble did not stop for sushi.

My father earned one of his two Distinguished Flying Crosses for this flight. ❖

The other connection my father had with the Marine Corps was on the lighter side and in my gun safe today: Japanese souvenirs my father obtained from a Marine, probably from a Third Marine Division Marine since its home was Guam. The infantry could easily obtain souvenirs, but aviators had no chance to do so.

As an officer, my father received liquor rations while the enlisted Marine received only beer rations. So he traded his liquor ration to the Marine for souvenirs: one Arisaka 7.7 rifle with bayonet; one “meatball flag” with no inscriptions; and one samurai sword with handle cover.



His rifle has a chrysanthemum stamped on the receiver.

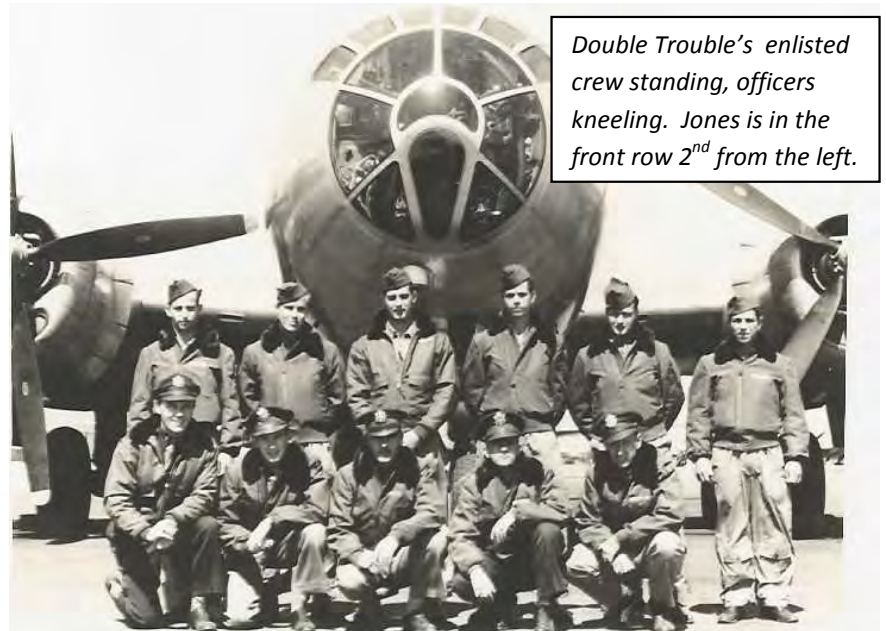
Souvenir rifles distributed at the end of the war had the flower emblem removed supposedly to prevent embarrassing the Emperor since the flower was his symbol and all armaments were the Emperor’s property, but my father’s pre-surrender rifle has a perfectly stamped chrysanthemum on it

He had permits to bring home all his Japanese souvenirs but not his “Garbage Can Garand.” While on Saipan in 1945 awaiting transport to CONUS, he found a Springfield Armory M-1 Garand rifle, general issue for the Marine Corps and Army, in a trash can and, being a firearms enthusiast he thought, “No way that’s staying there.” So he smuggled it in past Customs in California wrapped in a blanket and with the help of a friendly waitress. I shot it in 2022, the first shots it fired since circa 1945: it fired as if it had just come off the assembly line.

My father never hated the Japanese. One aspect of the war that always bothered him was why the Japanese did not surrender sooner and thus save lives. After all, two atomic bombs had been dropped and *still* no surrender, so my father’s crew flew one more bombing mission. On that return flight from Isesaki to Guam the crew learned via the B-29’s radio that Japan had finally surrendered.

P-10 had survived 28 combat missions and one final one, a flight over battleship USS *MISSOURI* as part of the air armada commemorating the signing of the surrender documents on 2 September 1945 (Pacific date). General of the Army Douglas MacArthur ended World War Two with these four simple words: “These proceedings are closed.”

My father married in 1947 and lived a good life having only one child (me).



*Double Trouble’s enlisted crew standing, officers kneeling. Jones is in the front row 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left.*

One postwar regret to the day he died was being unable to keep his issue .45 Colt pistol (his squadron commander threatened court-martial for those not surrendering their pistols). He should have done what a Marine infantry battalion commander I met on the 1995 Iwo trip did: have his sergeant “write off” the pistol as lost. I have that pistol in one of my gun safes.

My father bought the definitive books comprising the official Marine Corps History of World War Two. He was absolutely fascinated after reading one of his favorite books: Eugene Sledge’s *With the Old Breed*. My father had great insight, and I think after reading the Sledge book he told me he appreciated the difference between his air war and the infantry’s ground war. His crew was in limited danger: only when flying a mission, and it could only fly one every three days or so. Infantrymen, however, constantly faced the enemy and were thus in constant danger.

But the plane was hit by flak. In fact, he was isolated in the radar room, so he found a gunner, looked outside, and saw colored puffs of smoke. He asked the gunner what they were. Simple answer: “Flak” with colored flak to help locate the target.

He had a chance to return to Iwo Jima in 1995, but he would not go, so I went in his place, and I went again

in 2015. The only activities are going atop Mount Suribachi and gathering sand.

I got smart at some point and started writing down what my father spontaneously said about the war humorous or not; he might have said something anytime any place. My two favorite quotations:

”It’s a damn good thing we did not get shot down over Japan.”

”That’s the best deal I ever had—I didn’t get killed in World War Two”.

For most of 2018, I sorted my father’s flight equipment. I also sorted souvenirs, records, and uniforms. As I sorted, I wrote a biography of him while “submerged” in every type of war implement and record one can imagine.

To summarize, the most valuable document I own is a short note I found by chance although some people say, “No such thing as chance.” It is handwritten by my father from October 2013: “It was my privilege to serve my country. I was fortunate to survive 28 missions over Japan and one last trip to fly over USS Missouri battleship for the surrender of Japan. **I was not a hero but I did my duty.**” [My bold added] I think most combat veterans would agree with that keen insight of a noble, brave warrior. Amen and God Bless Them.

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*Colonel Jones served a combination of 30 years in the Marine Corps and its Reserve (1981 to 2011). He became associated with Fifth Marine Division Marines on Guam and Iwo Jima during the 50<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1995. With great pride he was “adopted” by the Marines and Corpsmen of Fox Company, Second Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> Marines.*

*He writes: Those of you who want to order a copy of my book about my father (it comes in two volumes, one text and one photographs) and to learn more about B-29s and the Army Airman who respected the Marines so greatly should visit my website <https://www.b29elmerjones39bombgroup.com/>. My personal email is [cajonesdt@triad.rr.com](mailto:cajonesdt@triad.rr.com).*

*And you will not find any inter-service rivalry between an Army aviator and either Marines or Navy men in these books. My father also liked the Navy (and especially its food) second only to the Marine Corps, but that is a story for another day along with the origin of “DOUBLE TROUBLE” and how I got that pistol from the battalion commander I met on my Iwo Jima trip in 1995.*



**Tribute to a Marine’s Marine** ( From the August 2008 FMDA Journal) I met Pete McCrew on the 1995 Iwo trip. At one lunch he spontaneously told me about Iwo, saying that he was telling me things he had never told anyone else. This was one of the highest honors of my life: he passed the history ‘delivering mail’ of great value –to me, a 40 year old Marine major. I will miss his humor and ‘grumpy’ demeanor; beneath them was a true gentleman, always very kind to me and caring for his Fox Company comrades. Thank you, Pete, and all Marines and Corpsmen, for capturing Iwo so my father’s B-29 could land there twice when it experienced trouble, thus probably saving his life and giving me mine. A heartfelt tribute, with greatest respect, from Colonel Charles A. Jones, USMCR, Associate Member, F/2/26.

Semper Fidelis.



# Meeting a Medal of Honor Recipient *by Bill Baumann*

Hello Marines!

The story about the ship named after Jack Lucas prompted me to write the following story.

In May of 2008, I was participating in the annual Run For The Wall. One of the stops was at a Harley Davidson shop in Mississippi. We were told about a MOH recipient that had been a Marine on Iwo Jima where he earned that award. He was hospitalized in a local hospital and not doing well. Usually a group of riders would visit him but because of his condition, that was not possible.

One of our leaders saw my Marine cover with D Company, 1/26 on it. I was told that was the unit Jack served with on Iwo Jima. He asked me if I would like to speak with him on the phone. Of course I jumped at that special opportunity.

I began my conversation with a hearty Semper Fi! Jack chuckled and responded likewise. I told him about my service with 1/26 in Vietnam. He really appreciated that. I found him to be a very witty man in the few moments we spoke with each other. I will always remember that brief phone conversation with a true American hero!

Jack later spoke to the entire group over a phone equipped with a PA. He had us roaring with laughter. He also said that when he came home, he fulfilled a promise to his mother to finish the eighth grade. He said the Marines were not going to let him go into combat because he was only 17, so he basically stowed away on the troop ship to get there. What a story!

Sadly Jack passed away later that summer. But his spirit lives in my heart. Semper Fi !! ❖



# The USS Jack Lucas *by Skip Werthmuller*



I appreciate hearing all these stories about such a great guy. There aren't a lot like Jack Lucas around.

My last Navy assignment was on shore duty helping supervise the building of large amphibious ships to include USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7).

Jack was frequently in Pascagoula, Mississippi (where USS Iwo Jima was built) as an honorary plank owner so I talked with him several times.

His Medal of Honor Citation is aboard USS Iwo Jima. He was there for all the important ship building milestones to include the commissioning ceremony in Pensacola, Florida 30 June 2001 ... where I spent the very last day of my 30 year Navy career, also as an honorary plank owner. ❖

# Chaplains on Iwo Jima *by Ken Brown*

Who is a chaplain? He is a man with some religious education or training, a man who has a desire to serve others and who has a calm demeanor and mental disposition that allows him to be empathetic, to be caring and able to understand human nature. Men with natural such qualities are often found to be chaplains in the military. They play an important role in giving counsel and encouragement, in building confidence, allaying fears and mingling among the men whenever there is opportunity.

A chaplain is a necessary and vital part of military life. He is a religious leader who has the authority to arrange for meeting times and then conduct religious worship services for the men. He makes himself available as a guide, counselor and help to anyone who needs him.

On Iwo Jima no chaplains were restricted to the particular regiment to which they were assigned

Any chaplain of any denomination could minister to or serve any Marine of any denomination.

However, excepted might be the Jewish Marine who would prefer the Jewish Chaplain if he were available. The Jewish men rather stuck together and set themselves apart from the Protestants. Since Rabbi Gittelsohn was the only Jewish chaplain on Iwo, he was available to all Marines and moved among the men freely. He was very friendly and the men often sought him out just for company.

Regiments were made up of three battalions. Two chaplains were assigned to each regiment, one a Catholic and the other a Protestant. Battalions did not have their own

chaplain but rather used the regimental chaplain. These regimental chaplains did not have assistants—but rather worked with each other. Also they did not have any kind of office as did the division chaplain—and his was a tent. The regimental chaplains were not assistants to the division chaplain, but rather carried out their activities and responsibilities under the jurisdiction of the division chaplain, who was Comdr. Warren F. Cuthriell. Cuthriell was a Methodist and had only one assistant— Cpl Kenneth Brown

In the division chaplain's office was also a Jewish Chaplain, Rabbi B. Gittelsohn, who had one assistant, whose name was Julius Louis Abramson. ❖



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❖ The United States Navy Chaplain Corps is the body of military chaplains who are commissioned naval officers.

❖ United States Navy Chaplain Corps was established on 28 November 1775. The history of the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Navy parallels the history of the Navy, itself.

❖ For over 200 years, military chaplains have accompanied U.S. forces wherever they have served.

❖ During World War II, at least 24 Chaplains died, with 3 being killed during the Attack on Pearl Harbor.

❖ Six Navy ships have been named in honor of members of the Chaplain Corps.

❖ During WWII, Navy Chaplains distinguished themselves countless times and received the military's highest honors, including the Medal of Honor.

❖ Vincent Capodanno was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions in the Thang Binh District, Vietnam, and is also being considered for canonization as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church.



# Brown's Duties

Brown's duties went beyond being a chaplain's assistant's when they arrived on Iwo Jima.

On the first day, Brown was held back and helped carry wounded aboard ship. He says, "Many knew they were dying" and had last requests about what to send home, so Brown and the chaplain took great efforts to fulfill their wishes.

Under heavy fire on the second day, Brown carried desperately needed supplies to exhausted corpsmen and then spent the remainder of the day carrying stretchers, giving morphine shots, and helping wounded any way he could. Looking at the casualties on the beach, Brown thought the battle was lost, but on the fourth day, he witnessed the raising of the U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi. "We knew then we were going to win." The battle ended 31 days later.

Later, Brown served as a replacement machine gunner with the 26th Marines. When they were having difficulty taking a hill, his commanding officer said, "We're going to take the hill tomorrow morning. If you men have

anything to write, this is the time to do it." While the Marines sat writing letters home, a runner came up saying that the chaplain's assistant was needed at the makeshift cemetery.

The next morning, while Brown helped bury the dead, his company was mostly wiped out. Brown believes that this is one of many experiences when being the chaplain's assistant saved his life.

The 5th Marine Division was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions on Iwo Jima. Brown was later assigned to the 2nd Division, and as they prepared for the invasion of Japan, the United States dropped nuclear bombs on the country.

Brown spent 10 months as part of the occupation troops, continuing to serve as the chaplain's assistant. Corporal Brown says, "I learned that freedom is not free. We paid an awful price to keep that flag flying on Iwo Jima and elsewhere throughout the world. People think we won the war easily -----  
WE DIDN'T ❖

## Ken Brown's INCIDENT ON IWO

There was no chance to sleep while on the line since it was not safe to relax for a minute. Our squad had gone for about three days without any rest and I felt as if I would die from sheer exhaustion. Finally, they let us go to a rear area for a few hours of sleep hoping we manage to do so with all the noise and shelling around us.

I remember that we got in front of an artillery battery where we thought it was safe. I dug a shallow foxhole and could hardly wait to spread out a blanket and lie down. The sand was burning hot with the midafternoon sun blazing down. With our shells going overhead and an occasional enemy mortar shell exploding nearby, the din was terrific. Never the less, in a few minutes I was soundly asleep.

Suddenly, however, I was awakened by a strange sensation. To my great astonishment my feet were cold; in fact they felt like blocks of ice. Having grown up in Idaho, I knew what cold feet felt like and I did have cold feet. I sat up and attempted to wrap my feet in the blanket I had under me.

While in this position I heard a mortar shell coming in. Since I was sitting, I hunkered down and put my head

between my knees instead of lying back prone which I would have normally done. The shell practically landed on top of me and I was knocked senseless from the explosion.



When I recovered, I noticed a hot piece of shrapnel had imbedded itself in the exact place where my head would have been had I been lying down.

I learned later that approximately the time of this happening my dad was lying in a hospital. The family members had all been praying individually for my safety but on this particular day my father did a rare thing and called them all to come to his room.

He told them that he had a special feeling that Kenneth was in some particular danger and suggested that he lead them in a united prayer.

As my sister Maxine and I figured it out later, this prayer was said at about the exact time that a half-world away my feet became icy cold and I was forced to make a move which saved my life. ❖

# Effort to name Navy ship after AP photographer Joe Rosenthal gaining traction *by Ray Elliott*



More than 75 years after Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took the iconic photograph of the second flag-raising on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, during the battle for Iwo Jima, an effort is underway to have a ship named for him for the inspirational impact the photo had on the Marines fighting there and the last war-bond drive of World War II.

Rosenthal's photograph became a motivating symbol for the war and was helpful in raising \$26.3 billion on the last war-bond drive, which was instrumental in helping the United States to continue on to victory against the Japanese. Now, it has become as much a symbol of the Marine Corps as the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy at the time who was on Iwo Jima that morning, was reported to have said when he saw the flag flying, "The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years." That adds another dimension of importance to Rosenthal's photo.

But the diminutive 33-year-old photographer, whose eyesight was too poor to serve in the Army as a military photographer, barely made it to the top

of Mount Suribachi after the first flag had been raised and was about to be replaced with a second, larger flag by the men of Easy Company, Second Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment, Fifth Marine Division.

"The flag's about to go up, Joe," Marine combat photographer Sgt. Bill Genaust reportedly said, standing beside Rosenthal. He put together a makeshift platform of rocks and a Japanese sand bag and hopped up on it beside Genaust, who had a 16mm motion picture camera. Both men captured the second flag going up as the first one was going down. The Marine sergeant's film of the second flag-raising provided proof that its raising was not staged, as was often speculated in the aftermath.

Rosenthal snapped the shot with his bulky Speed Graphic camera, using a "shutter speed of 1/400 and an aperture of about f/11." Long before the advent of digital photography that provides the image immediately, Rosenthal had no idea of the quality of the photo he had just taken, and then he took a posed celebratory shot of the Marines on the mountain that became known as the "Gung-ho" photo. He sent the black-and-white film back to Guam to be developed and then sent out to The Associated Press in New York. Within 17 hours of the flag raising, the photo was on the newswires—and on the desk of President Franklin D.

Roosevelt—and then on the front pages of Sunday newspapers across the country.

When Rosenthal got back to Guam a few days later, his photo had been shown in thousands of papers back in the States. Someone told him it was a great photo and asked if it had been staged. Thinking the man was talking about the "Gung-ho" photo of the Marines on the mountain taken after the flag had been raised, he replied that it had been staged. That caused controversy and confusion for years, even though Genaust's moving-picture film verified that Rosenthal's flag-raising photo had not been staged.

SSgt. Norm Hatch, a combat photographer who had taken film footage during the battle of Tarawa and was in charge of the Marine camera crew on Iwo



Jima, was able to secure the rights for the Marine Corps to use the image forever without payment. While he hadn't seen Genaust's film, he vouched for the photo's legitimacy to Gen. Archie Vandegrift, who then asked the AP for permission to use the photo in the Marines Corps' recruiting efforts.

The general was offered two prints for the Marine Corps for a dollar each. Hatch hadn't seen Genaust's film of the flag-raising, but he bluffed and said they had the film and could "blow that up to 8x10 inches and make a print." He said they might lose some definition, but the Marine Corps would own the footage and there would be no need to pay. Nobody knew Hatch hadn't seen the photo.

He later said he had no idea if the negative was "ruined, scratched, underexposed or damaged in some way." But the AP gave the Marines permission to use the photo "in perpetuity." The Associated Press still owns the original negative, which is locked up at AP headquarters in New York City, according to Tom Graves, chapter historian of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association.

"I got to hold and examine it a few years ago," he said. "It was the thrill of a lifetime."

Rosenthal was already a successful photographer and had covered several campaigns in the South Pacific with the Marines, but the flag-raising photograph won him a Pulitzer Prize, cemented his reputation and career, and became the one for which he's best known. It also lifted the spirits of the American people.

The photo became the model for a massive Felix de Weldon sculpture that was dedicated just outside Arlington National Cemetery in 1954, and it inspired other flag-raising sculptures across the country. The original plaster working model for the bronze and granite memorial statue currently resides in Harlingen, Texas, at the Marine Military Academy. Other monuments based on de Weldon's sculpture include three on Marine Corps bases at Quantico, Parris Island and Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii. Many other places have sketches on stone of the photo Rosenthal took, and thousands and thousands of framed photos hang in places across the country.

***"I took the picture," Rosenthal always said, "the Marines took Iwo Jima."***



The Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association (a group of retired military and civilian photographers, videographers and journalists) has petitioned Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro to name a ship the USS Joe Rosenthal to honor him for his historic image that became a national symbol of American spirit and determination. It is fitting, and long overdue, to honor Rosenthal in this way, and efforts are gaining real traction.

Rosenthal wasn't a Marine or a sailor, but the AP combat photographer was right there with the Marines and other American combat troops—unarmed—at Hollandia, New Guinea, Guam, Peleliu, Angaur and Iwo Jima in the Pacific Theater. The only weapon he carried on those island campaigns was his bulky Speed Graphic camera that proved to be invaluable to victory and to history.

It's time for the USS Joe Rosenthal. ❖



# A Three-war Iwo Jima Veteran and Former ParaMarine

**Sgt Ernie De Fazio**, served as a ParaMarine before Iwo Jima. He had joined the Marines in 1939 at the age of 19. Shortly after basic training, he volunteered for paratrooper training and became part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Parachute Regiment which fought with the famed 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division on Guadalcanal. After the ParaMarines were disbanded, he was assigned to the 26<sup>th</sup> Marines in the newly formed 5<sup>th</sup> Division and won his first Silver Star for action on Iwo Jima at the Motoyama Airfield.



De Fazio participated in five major amphibious assaults in WWII, including "Bloody Knoll" in the Solomon Islands in 1942. After WWII he fought with Reconnaissance units in Korea and Vietnam.

Also a master scuba diver, in Korea he took part in a 14 man scouting party that swam the Han River on a bold, covert night mission. In that mission, after the North Koreans opened fire on the small reconnaissance group, De Fazio, realizing that his captain had not returned with the rest of the unit, led his team back across the swift 400 yard Han River to find him. Captain Houghton, having been knocked down by the impact of the communist mortars, was unconscious, as well as his radioman. De Fazio and his men rescued them and retrieved two of

the LVTs of the four that had been bogged down in the mud.

The above photograph by Marine photographer David Douglas Duncan pictures De Fazio on the right, pointing into the hills beyond enemy positions. The company's commanding officer, Capt Kenneth Houghton, whose life he had earlier saved, is on the left. This photo appeared on the cover of the September 4, 1950, Life Magazine.

Featured in a Massachusetts newspaper article of 2005, De Fazio and his brothers were compared to the famed Sullivan Brothers. De Fazio came from a large family and all six of the brothers joined the armed forces to fight for America. Three went Navy, one Army Air Corps, and two joined the US Marine Corps.



Ernie De Fazio was the first of the six brothers to join, enlisting before the war.

A famed "mustang" he went on to carve out a distinguished 30 year Marine Corps career and retired as a Lt Colonel. Unlike the Sullivans, all of whom were lost at sea with the sinking of the USS Juneau, all six De Fazio brothers came back from the war.

Ernest had been wounded twice, in the Solomon Islands and on Iwo Jima, but recovered and continued to serve.

During the time his reconnaissance unit was stationed aboard the USS Perch, he became the first Marine to ever receive the Navy Dolphin Submariner's pin. ❖



*De Fazio was named as one of the Top-10 "Bad-Ass Marines" of all time in a 2009 Leatherneck Magazine article -- along with other iconic figures such as Chesty Puller and John Ripley.*

*His description read in part: "No posing, no posturing, no BS, Absolutely unafraid of anything on Earth, Iron determination. A complete pro, deadly as a lightning strike in combat.*

*An enraged bull gorilla would turn and run like hell from Ernie De Fazio."*

"I never knew many Marines who were only a 'little' dangerous. Most of them seemed to be a lot dangerous. That, I think, is the idea."

— Former Air Force officer, Vietnam veteran and fighter pilot Toby Hughes



Y.S.M.X: "The Fraternal Order of U.S. Marines."

## TRIBUTE OF HONOR MEMORIAL HONOREE



**PENNY PAULETTO**  
Daughter of Col Ernie De Fazio  
Past long term Trustee and  
Great Supporter of FMDA



(Honored by Sabre Middlekauff and  
Miscese Gagen)



# Men The Marines *By Garrow*

SINCE THE WAR, DE FAZIO HAS BEEN OUT OF THE STATES THREE TIMES ~ HE WAS ON MANEUVERS WITH THE 1ST BRIGADE IN THE CARIBBEAN, THEN NORTH TO THE ARCTIC TO TEST CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT, AND, JUST RECENTLY, BACK TO THE CARIBBEAN WITH THE SECOND MARINE DIVISION!

YA' NEVER KNOW WHAT TO TAKE WITH YA' ANY MORE



ON IWO JIMA, WHERE "UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE", DE FAZIO WAS OUTSTANDING ENOUGH TO WIN THE **SILVER STAR** FOR HEROISM! HE WAS AWARDED HIS **SECOND PURPLE HEART** THERE

HE LEFT THE STATES THREE DIFFERENT TIMES DURING THE WAR! HE WENT THROUGH TULAGI, GAVUTU, AND GUADALCANAL WITH THE FAMOUS FIRST DIVISION PARATROOPERS; HE RETURNED TO THE STATES AFTER BEING WOUNDED BUT JOINED HIS OLD OUTFIT IN TIME FOR THE BOUGAINVILLE LANDINGS; THEN HOME TO THE STATES AND FINALLY BACK FOR

IWO JIMA.

WE'LL SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!



**S/SGT. E. L. DE FAZIO**  
A VETERAN OF FIVE BEACHHEADS!



HIS HOME IS IN ATHOL, MASS.

## Service Records Request

Official Service Records

for DISCHARGED MILITARY

can be requested by family members from:

**National Personnel Records Center**

**1 Archives Drive, St Louis, MO 63138**

State reason for request and provide as much information

about the service member as possible: Complete Name,

Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Branch of

Service, Service Number, Approximate Date of Service,

Rank, Date & Place of Enlistment, if known

[www.archives.gov/veterans](http://www.archives.gov/veterans)

Phone: 314-801-0800 Fax: 314-801-9195

## TRIBUTE OF HONOR

### MEMORIAL HONOREE



## Col. ERNIE DE FAZIO

1<sup>st</sup> Marine Parachute Regiment Guadalcanal

5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division 3/26 H Company Iwo Jima

1st Recon Company (HQ Bn, 1 MarDiv) Korea

Reconnaissance Unit in Vietnam


*(Honored by Penny Pauletto, Daughter)*






**Paraphrased note from Craig Leman's "A Marine Goes to War in the Battle of Iwo Jima" memoir:**  
 "During the year of intensive training before Iwo, my best friends were Alan Lowry from Decatur, Illinois; Clarence Louviere from Louisiana; and Bill Lowell from Arizona --classmates in the Special OCS at Camp Lejeune. Just before we sailed for Iwo, we made a pact that whoever of us survived would visit the families of those who hadn't to tell them about the events of our last year together, since none of us had been home. Lowry was injured, but survived. Lowell died, after telling me of Louviere's death. On returning to the U. S. after the war, trains and planes in Los Angeles were booked solid at the time, so I hitchhiked from the coast to Tucson, Arizona and then to New Iberia, Louisiana before going home to Chicago, in order to spend an emotional night with each bereaved family, telling them everything I could remember about their sons." ❖

**TRIBUTE OF HONOR**  
**MEMORIAL HONOREE**




**In memory of 2d Lt. Craig B. Leman  
 H-3-26 (WIA) and his  
 Special Officer's Candidate School Classmates,  
 fellow 2d Lts. Alan Lowry (WIA)  
 Clarence Louviere (KIA)  
 and Bill Lowell (KIA)**

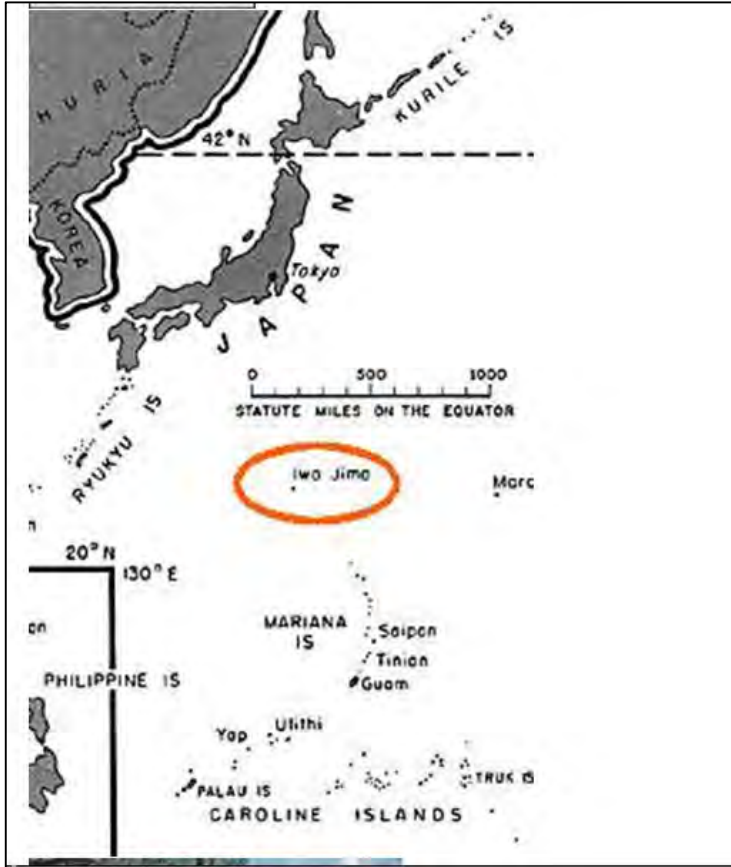


*(Honored by Valerie Leman, Daughter of Craig Leman)*

**U.S. Marine Corps**  
 ⇨ **Top Five Slogans** ⇨



- 1 Often mistaken for the wrath of God.
- 2 We kill the enemy so you don't have to.
- 3 Total devastation in 30 minutes or the next one is free
- 4 We don't like collateral damage, so stay out of the way
5. If everything is exploding around you, that's probably us.

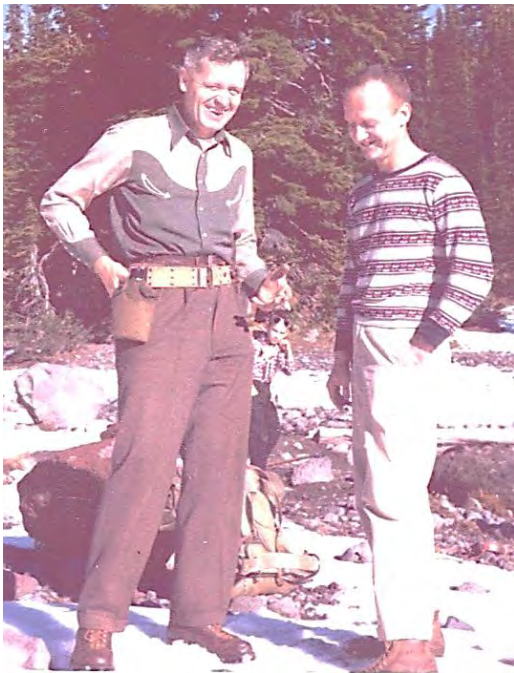


# Marines and Medicine:

## The Friendship of David Kliewer and Craig Leman

*Originally Published in Leatherneck Magazine, Reprinted with Permission: By Valerie Leman*

Second Lieutenant Craig Leman and Major David Kliewer served in the Pacific theater during World War II and later became physicians and colleagues. They were exemplary Marine officers and brilliant doctors who forever adhered to the principals that served them well in the Corps. Their path to military and medical careers were very different, yet they shared common values and interests throughout their long lives.



They met as medical students at Harvard Medical School, recognizing each other by the Silver Star insignia each customarily wore. Leman learned that Kliewer, a Marine aviator, had become a POW in 1941 on Wake Island when Japanese soldiers overran his position defending the beach. Until 1945, he was a prisoner of war in Japan. There, each POW was allowed to send out a few letters on a strict schedule, and Kliewer used one of his to write to Harvard Medical School. He was admitted, and eventually, he joined Leman and others in a group practice in Corvallis, Oregon.

Leman, who considered Kliewer to be his closest friend in civilian life, said, "I met Dave Kliewer 60 years ago at Harvard Medical School. Every Christmas, I think of his Christmas in 1941 on Wake Island where he had just been captured by Japanese soldiers, and his

Christmas of 1942, 43, and 44 which he spent in prison in Japan. Although he lost about 50 pounds and acquired tuberculosis, he survived, and entered medical school a year after his release. We practiced together at the Corvallis Clinic, and he was physician to my family. About thirty years ago I gave him a box of Japanese mandarin oranges as a Christmas gift. He told me that they had special meaning for him. Late in the war, with Japan blockaded and near starvation, the POWs, who were at the very end of the food chain, were in dire straits. The International Red Cross sent him a box of mandarin oranges. Dave divided them up equally, so that each prisoner had a few segments. He saved the orange peels, shredded them, divided up the fragments, and each prisoner used them to sprinkle on his food, a few shreds at a time, till they were gone. Each Christmas I visualize this scene in the cold snowy mountains of Honshu in the barbed wire stockade. And I give thanks.

**II. Background:** Kliewer grew up in the Mennonite faith in Montana, where his parents were missionaries on an Indian reservation. Both he and his brother wanted to become doctors, but during the Depression, there was little money. When Kliewer graduated from college he and his brother flipped a coin over who would get a job to put the other through medical school. His brother won the toss and Kliewer decided to train as a pilot, joining the military in 1939. Dave became a fighter pilot for Grumman F3F and F4F Wildcat aircraft. He qualified for aircraft carrier landing and was assigned to VMF-211 at Pearl Harbor. Aerial and combat training was going on, but he wasn't aware of an imminent feeling that war was coming.

On 28 November 1941, his 65-man squadron received secret orders to go on fleet maneuvers to Wake Island, where there was a limited garrison consisting of Marines and civilian construction workers. By then, the pilots had orders to shoot down any enemy planes encountered, as the war was coming. Four days after the squadron arrived on Wake, the Japanese attacked. Kliewer estimated that about half of his unit was lost, as well as 7 or 8 of their 12 fighter planes. Despite the casualties, the Marines repulsed the first attack and for



the next week, the remaining pilots and planes flew patrols. Kliewer was on a solitary patrol when he dive-bombed and sank a Japanese submarine. This action earned him a Silver Star.

Soon, the Japanese began a second attack on Wake and the Marines got word that no relief was coming. As a pilot he had to become an infantry Marine, for which he had received no training. On 23 December 1941, he and three enlisted men took up a post at the end of the runway close to the beach, with the mission of blowing up the airfield if the Japanese planes landed. Brutal hand-to-hand combat ensued. One of his enlisted men said to him, "Never surrender, Lieutenant. Marines don't surrender." Soon they saw a group carrying a white flag walking down the beach, but they thought it could be a hoax and shot at them. However, as they got closer, he heard his commanding officer Major James Devereaux shouting orders to surrender. They turned over their weapons and were captured. Kliewer became deathly ill with typhoid but was able to recover.

*A summary of the Battle of Wake Island in Wikipedia states, "American casualties numbered 52 military personnel (Navy and Marine) and approximately 70 civilians killed. Japanese losses exceeded 700 dead, with some estimates ranging as high as 1,000. Wake's defenders sank two Japanese fast transports (P32 and P33) and one submarine, and shot down 24 Japanese aircraft.*



After a few days, all the ambulatory prisoners were sent in the hold of a passenger boat to Yokohama. Once they arrived, most of the enlisted were sent to China for prison camp, but Kliewer and 11 fellow officers were kept in the Tokyo Bay area, where they endured brutal interrogation by Japanese pilots. Although Kliewer was mistakenly identified as the communications officer, he had no information to give and gave none. He was stunned when his commanding officer Capt. Putnam had the bravado to point him out as the pilot who had sunk the Japanese submarine. The Japanese pilots didn't seem to react much to the identification, although they asked him a lot of questions about that.

Kliewer and the others were taken to another camp, where they met other POWs brought in from Guam, including British and Dutch military, mostly officers. Kliewer worked in the dispensary with one of those POWs, a Navy doctor, who told him that he ought to pursue his goal of becoming a doctor and should apply to Harvard Medical School. Red Cross packages came periodically and Kliewer traded his portions of cigarettes or rice for a Bible, a calculus book, and a copy of Gray's Anatomy. After about two years, he convinced one of the more humane camp officials to allow the prisoners to raise rabbits to supplement their meager rice diet.

Kliewer credited the military discipline they had learned, including maintaining a chain of command, for keeping them alive and unified.

Toward the end of the war, the prisoners got bits of news of the Allied progress in the Philippines and elsewhere, from the enlisted POWs who were serving as stevedores at the docks. They saw U.S. bombers flying overhead and anticipated that they might be killed in bombing raids or by starvation, since food was becoming scarce. They were then taken to a different camp in the Japanese Alps and told that the Emperor had surrendered after the Atomic bombs were dropped. They used toothpaste to write "POW" on the roofs of their camp buildings, and started to receive food dropped from airplanes. Soon a 7th Cavalry unit took them by train to the coast for debriefing. After being deloused and showering, Kliewer started out for the next station while still naked. Suddenly he was shaking hands with Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who asked, "Young man, what can we do for you?" Kliewer said that he wanted an American newspaper and cigar to enjoy on an American toilet. He got them.

During six months of hospitalization for recovery, he finished his pre-med course and entered Harvard Medical School a year after his release. Other than having to take a year off for treatment for tuberculosis acquired in the camp, he successfully completed his studies and served as an internal medicine doctor in Hawaii until 1961, when Leman invited him to join the group practice in Corvallis, Oregon. There he specialized in hematology and oncology until retirement in 1984.

**III. Background:** Leman grew up in Chicago, Illinois, the son of a WWI veteran of the Army Air Corps and a pianist. As a college student at the outset of WWII, he enlisted in the Navy reserves V-12 program, which ultimately led him to the Marine Corps Special Officer Candidate School (SOCS). This was a unique form of officer training for USMC rifle platoon leaders in 1944, which utilized a “need-to-know,” condensed combat format of instruction.

They began rigorous field training by NCOs and officers who were survivors of earlier Pacific campaigns, who hammered into their students’ heads, “Lead! Lead! Lead!! That’s what you’re paid for!” After 11 weeks of intensive training, 373 of 430 graduated as 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenants in September 1944. The SOCS program was disbanded and they were the only officers ever to be commissioned in that way. Leman recalled, “Roughly half of us went to Iwo Jima, half to Okinawa. 48 of us were killed and 153 wounded. Some of us joined and trained with assault units before they landed; others joined shore party and supply units for their first few days of combat, and then were transferred to depleted assault units as replacements for officer casualties. I was in the latter group. I landed on Iwo Jima on Red Beach 2 as leader of a shore party platoon at H+2 on D-Day and spent the first days on the beach, unloading landing craft and stowing gear and supplies. On D+10 ten of us lieutenants were sent to exhausted rifle companies as replacement officers. In the next two weeks, all ten of us were killed or wounded.”

Leman received the Silver Star for his actions on 8 March, 1945, as a rifle platoon leader who, after a cave explosion, brought together the uninjured remnants of his platoon and two others to press forward in the attack so that the enemy had no opportunity to counterattack in what was then a very weak spot in the lines.

A sniper shot him through his helmet into the back of his neck, but he refused to be evacuated until his units were dug in for the night and under a new leader. He was treated at the division hospital and evacuated.



After recuperating in Guam, Leman rejoined the Fifth Division on the Big Island of Hawaii, to prepare for the invasion of Japan. After the surrender, he served in Palau and then was discharged from the service in March 1946. Leman immediately fulfilled a pact he had made with three of his classmates in the SOCS, that if any of them were killed, the survivor would visit the bereaved families to tell them about their son’s last year.

Leman returned to the University of Chicago in 1946, then earned admission to Harvard Medical School. While still in school and medical training, Leman visited fellow recovering veterans in hospital, starting a pattern of working hard to keep up his ties with the men with whom he served. “I had thought about becoming a doctor before the war, but had never really made the decision. The reason I chose surgery was because of my experience on Iwo Jima: the sight of apparently dying men coming back from the front gray and in shock, and being transfused and then going back to the operating room and coming back several hours later very much alive and pink and going to live.

After Leman retired from his surgical practice, he had more time to engage in correspondence and visits with fellow former Marines, near and far. He wanted to make sure that the relatives of the fallen knew their

stories, and he corresponded with many who wrote him to ask about service in the Marines. He joined military organizations such as FMDA and became a frequent contributor to the *Spearhead* Newsletter.

**IV Common Interests**--Throughout their careers, both Leman and Kliewer were strong supporters of community public health and humanitarian causes, speaking out about issues of war and peace, including humane treatment of POWs. They worked closely on founding a local Hospice. In a 1985 clinic newsletter, Kliewer profiled his friend and fellow Marine veteran Leman, "Intensity is an apt description of everything that Craig does, whether it is swimming, running, playing the piano or the practice of medicine. You will not see him on the roadway with other joggers, for he loves to run over the countryside over fences, across swamps and through poison oak patches."

Leman and Kliewer each made a point of returning to the sites of their wartime experiences as a means of demonstrating that healing and reconciliation were possible and would be beneficial for all. Kliewer never abandoned the pacifist principles he had learned growing up as a Mennonite, but was also proud of being a Marine. He struggled with the knowledge that he had caused the death of enemy soldiers.

His experience as a POW taught him important lessons about hope, determination, and living every day fully. He visited the sites of two of the prison camps where he had been held, finding that one had been turned into a high school and one was a ski resort, and met a few of the people who had worked at the camps. They rejoiced together that both of the camps had been turned to peaceful purposes, "swords into plowshares."

Leman returned to Iwo Jima for Japanese-American Reunions of Honor in 1985 and 1995, recalling: "I lost many of my best friends at Iwo. My resentment toward the Japanese was consuming. However, the occupation of Japan six months later gave me the opportunity to meet Japanese civilians and to learn that they were

human beings like us. If anyone had told me then that I would ever return to Iwo Jima for a joint memorial service with the Japanese survivors to honor the dead of both sides, I would have thought that person insane. How was I to know, in 1945, that the day would come when the Japanese and Germans would be our friends, and that our allies—the Russians--would not. As a surgeon, I have treated patients of many nationalities and have worked with surgeons from many countries... I know our common humanity; I hope we can learn from our past."

In his 2011 memoir, Leman had written movingly about his observations of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. "PTSD is a term that had not been invented in 1946, and I coped with my continued anger at the Japanese and my distress at the destruction of so many friends as best I could. The person who did most to cure me of my antipathy toward the Japanese was a fellow physician whom I met in medical school, Kliewer... Fifteen years after the war we stayed up all night talking about our experiences; his humane, forgiving attitude, after enduring far more suffering at their hands than I had, helped me to overcome the anguish and bitterness that had afflicted me. ❖



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*Valerie Leman is the second of six children of Craig B. Leman (H-3-26, 2d Lt. USMCR) and his wife Nancy Farwell Leman. The family lived in Corvallis, Oregon from the time Craig started his surgical practice there in 1957. Valerie retired from a 37-year career as a research attorney for the California court system, and is a student of WWII history, including Craig's personal papers, which she shares with this newsletter.*



# The Only Admiral Killed in Vietnam

Rear Admiral Rembrandt C. Robinson, U.S. Navy, at age 47, was Commander Cruiser Destroyer Flotilla 11 and Commander 7th Fleet Cruisers and Destroyers.



*Above: Rear Admiral Robinson in Pearl Harbor, enroute to Vietnam*

The Admiral was killed in a helicopter crash in the Gulf of Tonkin on 8 May 1972, during a late night landing approach to his flagship, the guided missile light cruiser USS Providence (CLG-6) immediately preceding the cruiser-destroyer attack on the Don Son Peninsula and Haiphong, North Vietnam.

Also killed were the Chief of Staff, Capt Edmund Taylor, and the Operations Officer, Commander John Leaver. The Admiral and his staff were returning from a planning meeting aboard USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) to ensure close cooperation between the naval surface and air components of the attacks scheduled May 9 and 10, 1972, following the mining of the North Vietnam harbor. The loss simultaneously of all three 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet officers severely compromised its leadership at this crucial time. ❖

Robinson was son of a Navy veteran of the First World War. He attended the Naval Reserve Midshipmen School in the V-12 program. He was commissioned in 1944, and advanced to the rank of Rear Admiral in September, 1970. At this time, Admiral Robinson, at age 44, was one of the youngest officers selected to Flag rank in the history of the U.S. Navy and was the third time he had been selected for early promotion.

While serving in the Pacific in World War II, Admiral Robinson saw extensive combat action, including the invasion of Okinawa. Following the end of the war, his ship was engaged in the evacuation of refugees fleeing from the advancing Communist forces in China.

In June 1949 he joined USS English (DD-696) as the Engineer Officer. During combat action in the Korean War, the USS English, one of the first Atlantic Fleet

ships to enter the Korean War, was attacked by enemy shore batteries while at anchor at Wonsan.

During the period August 1964 through August 1968 Robinson was Executive Assistant and Aide to the Commander in Chief, Pacific. "He advised in matters ranging from current combat operations in Vietnam to the long range aspects of national and international strategy and policy." In July 1971, he assumed command of Flotilla 11 (Naval Task Force 77) and deployed to Vietnam in early 1972 where he was in charge of all Cruisers and Destroyers off the coast of Vietnam.

Robinson was much more than just a statistic of the Vietnam War. He loved the United States, the Navy, and was an outstanding and well respected Flag officer ❖



**BACKGROUND:** *Supplied by Captain Skip Werthmuller, who was serving aboard the USS Providence at the time of Admiral Robinson's helicopter crash and night long search for survivors. He participated in the bombardment of the port of Haiphong the following day. This information is from his personal experience with supporting facts from the Naval History Magazine, and the U.S. Naval Institute.*

During the last phases of the Vietnam War in 1972, President Nixon pursued Peace Talks with the North Vietnamese in Paris, but there was no ready agreement between the two sides. To help ensure they were operating from a position of strength, North Vietnam launched a 120,000 man "Easter Offensive" attack across the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam on 30 March 1972. At this time there were only approximately 68,000 U.S. forces in South Vietnam with most of the combatant forces being Marines in the I Corps area.

Additional Navy and Air Force units were soon committed to meet this new threat. One of the units committed was USS Providence (CLG-6), a WWII era cruiser with a triple 6 inch turret, a double 5 inch gun mount, a twin terrier missile launcher and over 900 crewmembers, which got emergency orders to deploy on 11 April 1972 for a nine month deployment with only 48 hours notice. Deploying ships usually get approximately six months deployment notice.

I had reported aboard USS Providence in October 1971 in my first assignment as a Naval Officer. My assignments were in the Weapons Department as a Deck Division Officer and later as a Main Battery Officer. My collateral duties included being one of the flight deck officers and standing watch as an Officer of the Deck underway.

In early May 1972, President Nixon decided to strike back at North Vietnam by mining and blockading the port of Haiphong, 70 miles east of Hanoi. He later announced this action on a nationwide news broadcast. Two of the main planners of this operation were RADM Robinson (Commander Naval Surface forces 7th Fleet), whose flagship was USS Providence and RADM Cooper (Commander Naval Air Forces 7th Fleet). The helicopter crash (described above) took place after a meeting between these two admirals as we were transiting North to Haiphong.

After this operation USS Providence (CLG-6) continued to perform gunfire support missions to include another multi-cruiser raid off of Haiphong. We expended over 40,00 rounds of 6 inch and 5 inch gunfire during our deployment primarily in support of U.S. Marine forces ❖

## TRIBUTE OF HONOR

### MEMORIAL HONOREE



In memory of

### MARTY CONNOR

For 40 years of coordinating the  
Return of Marines' war souvenirs to  
bereaved Japanese families



## TRIBUTE OF HONOR

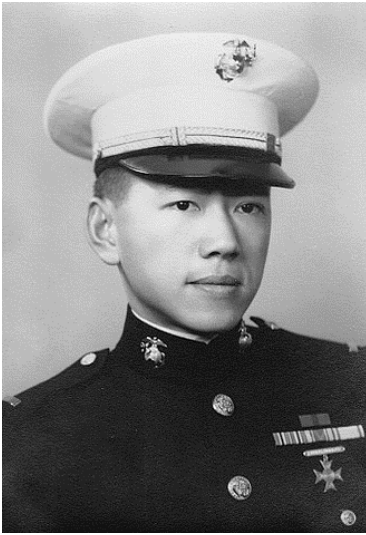
### MEMORIAL HONOREE



### DAN KING

For resuming the difficult task of  
locating Japanese family members to  
return war souvenirs





# A Chinese Hero in Korea

*From the Sacramento Bee Newspress*

Maj. Chew-Een (known as Kurt) Lee was a gung-ho Marine who gave no ground to enemy troops in battle or to bigotry at home. The firstborn son of Chinese immigrants, he climbed the ranks during a time of strong racial prejudice. He demanded that subordinates who did not respect him must nevertheless respect his rank. Joining the Marine Corps near the end of WWII, Lee became the first Chinese-American Marine in 1946. Following Basic School, he became the first Asian American to be commissioned as a regular USMC officer.

Maj. Lee earned the respect and loyalty of his men as a fearless leader in extreme combat conditions in the Korean War. As a young Lieutenant, he received the Navy Cross for bravery during a fierce assault by Communist Chinese forces.

Lee directed his men to shoot at the enemy's muzzle flashes. Then Lee single-handedly advanced upon the enemy front and attacked their positions one by one to draw their fire and reveal themselves. His men fired at the muzzle flashes and inflicted heavy casualties, forcing the enemy to retreat. While advancing, Lee shouted to the enemy in Mandarin Chinese to sow confusion and then attacked with hand grenades and gunfire.

Wounded in the attack but unwilling to be sent to Japan for treatment Lee rejoined his platoon in Baker Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. He was assigned to help relieve a Marine division that was encircled by overwhelming enemy numbers while trying to defend their only escape road in the bloody Battle of the Chosin Reservoir in December 1950.

Guided only by a compass in pitch-black darkness, he led 500 men through a nighttime blizzard over mountainous terrain at 20 degrees below zero. Pinned under intense enemy fire, he directed the men to attack the hill with "marching fire", a stratagem used by General George S. Patton in

which troops continue to advance as they apply just enough suppressive fire to keep the enemy's heads down.

Lee shot enemy soldiers along the way with his right arm still in a cast from his sniper wound. The ferocity of the Marine attack broke the resistance of enemy troops, who fled down the reverse slope.

Maj. Lee suffered another bullet wound during the successful operation, but his leadership enabled 8,000 Marines to escape annihilation by 60,000 Chinese troops. His combat actions were unbelievable, and many believe he should have gotten the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Chosin Reservoir. He saved untold numbers of Marine troops by holding the valley pass open. He was a superb leader and tactician, always leading from the front.





# Khe Sanh

By Chaplain Ray William Stubbe (abridged) Founder of Khe Sanh Veterans

The key to survival and success in the battle of the Siege of Khe Sanh was the determination, resolve, and common courage by numerous individuals despite almost overwhelming, countervailing forces.

Haunting faces and desperate conditions captured by David Douglas Duncan and the legendary "thousand-yard stare" on the faces of those at Khe Sanh reflected the desperate reality. It is miraculous, in fact, that any made it out alive from that battlefield.

Surrounding Khe Sanh, like clutching, choking fingers on a throat, were tens of thousands of encircling enemy troops plus tanks. American defenders received up to 1600 incoming rounds a day -- mostly devastating rockets and artillery on a base less than a mile long and half a mile wide. More tonnage of bombs were dropped in this small battlefield area than in all of the Pacific in 1942 and 1943; in an area of 564 square kilometers, friendly fire delivered some 99,600 tons of ordnance.



When Co E, 2/26 occupied Hill 861-A on 22 January 1968, the defenders were rationed to a C-ration meal and half a canteen cup of water a day Khe Sanh, a place of scintillating beauty -- almost a Garden of Eden -- shrouded horror and death within its beauty



During intense shelling, gun crews remained in the open to fire 105mm howitzers, wire men ran out amid the explosions to splice severed lines to resume vital communications, men commonly dashed to pull an injured man to safety. Those on the Drop Zone (where there was no bunker or trench or hole to run for cover) retrieved supplies while those on the airstrip cleared it of shrapnel so planes could land. Officers and NCOs were continually seen moving among their troops to cheer and check. Stretcher-bearers moved casualties to waiting helicopters even as mortars exploded near them.

Fierce battles were continually won by the young defenders who successfully repulsed determined attacks by large NVA units: the attack on Khe Sanh village and Hill 861, the attack on Hills 861A and 64, and three assaults against the eastern perimeter, one by a regimental-size force. Some of these involved hand-to-hand combat in darkness.

Thus, "Khe Sanh" is not tactics and strategy – It is the people who were there. The wonder of Khe Sanh is not amazement that we all weren't killed there, not the degree of commitment on all levels. The real wonder of Khe Sanh is that so many of such exemplary character were gathered in one place, certainly not as a result of the insight of Generals or their G-1 staff; reflecting Napoleon's maxim, "In a war it is not men but the man who counts." ❖



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*"I always knew that God was with us," Stubbe said. "I saw many of the good parts of people. . . . Especially there. It was very apparent to me how good people were to each other. Marines shared food, water, letters from home, and gave their lives for each other. These are mainly 19-year-olds ... happy, friendly, frolicking kind of people playing practical jokes... But also who just had that genuine sense of caring for each other."*

# FOREFIGHT!!!! Kùnda by Art Sifuentes

## Vietnam...sometime between Fall of 1966 and Fall of 1967...

No flying for me today...but my once a month day of duty as the Squadron Duty Officer (SDO) for our H-34 squadron based on Hue-Phu Bai. This entailed the normal SDO duties, briefing aircrews and launching flights out to various missions, tracking our squadron flight operations, playing dispatcher to grunts (I prefer to address them as "Earth People", as opposed to "aviators") needing rides north or south, etc.



The weather was nice and there was a break mid-afternoon in activities as I stood in the doorway to our operations hootch looking out at the flight

line. As I stood there leaning against the door frame, I heard a "pop!" A familiar sound, but it did not register for where I was and the time of day... so I was briefly puzzled...but soon it was followed by another pop...I then quickly noticed, about a foot from my hand, a hole about the size of a .30 caliber round that had not been there earlier...then a series of sounds very familiar as gunfire...and it was incoming!

My first thought was we were under a VC/NVA attack!!...But in the middle of the afternoon?? No time to cogitate on the timing...we were under attack!.. As the SDO, my duty was to sound the alarm in the event of an emergency... such as an attack or requirement to call the Medevac standby crew for an Emergency Mission launch.

The alarm was an old fashioned crank siren, which I activated. By then others had heard the shots. Crew Chiefs scrambled to their birds to break out the ammo for the door guns, pilots ran toward me to get the "scoop" as they belted on their .38 pistol belts... Staff Sgts ran for the armory to break out bigger weapons. We were all hunkered down belly-crawling toward the

*My friend, Tony Garcia, on the "street" in front of our hootch, with one of our "Evil Eye" H-34 aircraft on the flight line in the background.*



perimeter with our high-powered .38s and six rounds of ammo ready to thwart the attack, standing by to receive bigger weapons and ammo from the armory! ...Surely the VC and NVA are coming through the wire! ...

After several more minutes and a few more rounds hitting our hootches in the living area, all became quiet ... no yelling, no enemy coming through the wire ...no more fire. All became quiet... As we cautiously stood up, walked around, puzzled at no further "enemy activity", we "stood down", toured the area for security and slowly all returned to routine, but with added security on the perimeter...

It was not long before we learned there had been no attack. Just over-zealous recruits. The Vietnamese boot camp, located near the base had just graduated a couple classes. Evidently their competitive juices had overflowed into arguments, which escalated to fights between the two classes, which had escalated to rounds being exchanged...which had resulted in some of those rounds straying through our squadron area and ventilating the Duty Hut and a few living hootches...

So, I guess this could not really be considered a firefight, as this was a pretty one-sided affair...We never returned a single round...

Such is life in a combat area...

One must be vigilant at all times. ❖



# The Final Camp Tarawa Museum Update

## Another casualty of COVID

For over fifteen years the Fifth Marine Division Association attempted to establish a museum on the Big Island of Hawaii. Richard Smart, owner of a massive ranch, had leased thousands of acres to the government for \$1 a year to use as a military training camp in preparation for war in the Pacific. After he died, the ranch was divided into several Trust groups, and the Association was never able to obtain a small tract of land near the entrance to the wartime Camp Tarawa. State Senator Gil Kahele, who was a Marine, was a great aid in the attempt to gain the land, but he died prematurely in early 2016, and with it, hopes for the physical Camp Tarawa Museum.

Enter a new concept.... a virtual museum that could be accessed world-wide by researchers, using the software program PastPerfect-online. Scanning and cataloging was begun at the University of Hawaii's Hilo satellite campus Ko Center in the town of Honoka'a. Many items that had been solicited from FMDA members and families via its reunions and the newsletters were transferred there. Other items were kept stored in FMDA's vice-president's home, waiting to be cataloged and scanned. Then COVID struck and the University of Hawaii closed down its satellite's Center permanently.

A group of local Honoka'a leaders, with their own funds, then established the Honoka'a Heritage Center in that town, where Marines in 1944 went on liberty. However, the Center has an entirely different focus, that of the history of the people who settled the Big Island. While that history includes the impact of the Marines on Hawaii, it is only for the period the Marines trained on the Big Island and interacted with locals at sports events and visits in homes and businesses.

All the items that had been at the Ko Education Center (formerly the North Hawaii Education & Research Center) were transferred to the new Honoka'a Heritage Center. Using the History Pin program, memorabilia of Marines during that short time period of training can still be shared, but History Pin is not set up like the PastPerfect online software. (See <https://honokaaheritagecenter.org/current-exhibits/>)

In keeping with the spirit in which donations were made of memorabilia from Camp Pendleton, Iwo Jima, the Occupation of Japan, and elsewhere, the Board of Directors will vote on their proper redistribution. Currently, only donations displayed at the Honoka'a Heritage Center of the Marines' time at Camp Tarawa are being used. ❖

### TRIBUTE OF HONOR

#### MEMORIAL HONOREE



### Cpl PASQUALE CARUSO

5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division – Iwo Jima

*Honored by his wife Antoinette Caruso*



### TRIBUTE OF HONOR

#### MEMORIAL HONOREE

SgtMajor "IRON MIKE" MERVOSH

Iwo Jima ↻ Korea ↻ Vietnam

MICHAEL J. CUNDARI (PHM 2/c)

USS Lenawee – Landing on Iwo Jima



*(Honored by Gene Fioretti)*

*friend of Sgt Mervosh & nephew of Michael Cundari*

# Welcome New Members

## Annual

<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>City &amp; State</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Jessamyn	Harter	Madison, NY	Legacy - Marty Connor, Iwo Jima
Mike	Matera	Lake Wales, FL	2/26 Vietnam
John	O'Conner	Lebanon, OH	1/26 Vietnam
Buzz	Perez	Austin, TX	5 <sup>TH</sup> Division Vietnam
Taiya	Rayman	Winfred, S.D.	Legacy – Louie Hinrichs, Iwo Jima

## Lifetime

<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>	<i>City &amp; State</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Miscece	Gagen *	Townsend, MT	Legacy – Col John Butler, Iwo Jima
Duane	Magnan	Centralia, WA	Lima Battery, 13 <sup>th</sup> Marines Vietnam
Sabre	Middlekauff *	Carrabelle, FL	Legacy – Col John Butler, Iwo Jima
Angelo	Romano	Kansas City, MO	H&S 3-13 Iwo Jima

\*Upgrade from Annual

## Honorary

We are pleased and honored to offer the 33<sup>rd</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Mike Hagee, an Honorary membership in the Fifth Marine Division Association. Gen. Hagee is currently the CEO of The Museum of the Pacific War, in Fredericksburg, Texas, and was the 2023 Guest Speaker at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Reunion in San Antonio.



## Last Muster

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Home Town</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>DOD</i>
Nick	Barone	Bridgeville, PA	H-3-26	6-1-2010
Eldor M.	Fruehling	Sauk City, WI	K-4-13	5-26-2024
George	Howle	Henderson, NV	H&S 1-27	2-24-2024
Col. Tom	Kalus	Aiea, HI	5 <sup>th</sup> JASCO	10-3-2023
James	Kelly	Urbana, IL	5thSERV 28 <sup>th</sup>	5-30-2024
Bertram	Rutan	Seattle, WA	C-1-27	1-7-2024
Ralph	Simoneau	Germantown, WI	D-2-27	9-23-2023



# Financials through 2023

FMDA Financial Activity		
2023		
6/7/23 - 12/31/23		
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash		
Chase Checking	14,357.67	
Chase Savings	4,001.50	
Total Cash	18,359.17	18,359.17
<b>Total Assets</b>		18,359.17
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	0.00	
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00
<b>Net Worth</b>		18,359.17

FMDA Profit & Loss	
2023	
6/7/23 - 12/31/23	
<b>Income</b>	
Reunion Donations	4,922.00
Reunion Registrations	11,220.00
Fundraising Projects	-
Donations	8,550.00
Membership Dues	575.00
Interest Income	0.21
Gross Income	25,267.21
<b>Expenses</b>	
Bank Fees	-
Reunion Expenses	(22,404.86)
Misc Expense	(333.62)
Fundraising Projects	-
Fed & State Fees	-
Office Supplies	(224.45)
PO Box Rental	(113.00)
Postage	(734.63)
Printing	(1,580.00)
Database Update	-
Website Develop	-
Total Expenses	(25,390.56)
<b>Net Income</b>	(123.35)

Donation Form - All donations are tax deductible

501(c)3 non-profit & all volunteer organization

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

Name: -----

Address: -----

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

Amount ----- Thanks!!!

# Member News

## ⇒ Legal Notice ⇐

With the end of the dream of a Camp Tarawa Museum, FMDA plans to appropriately re-distribute some non-used donations, collected over 15 years from its members, to other museums/locations. If for any reason a donor wishes a donation, **not** related to the Marine's time training at Camp Tarawa, returned to the family or kept in a museum in his home state, please notify FMDA by 1 September. Please send a list the items to be returned and your complete contact information. Mail requests to FMDA, P.O. Box 728, Weatherford, TX 76086.

As of this date, all donations relating to the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division's training at Camp Tarawa have been placed in the Honoka'a Heritage Center, located in that close-by town where WWII Marines went on R&R. The Center has an impressive display of those reminders of the Marines' time on Hawaii, and those donated items are already properly displayed as intended and do not need to be re-distributed.

Thanks to all who so generously aided in the long attempt to establish a museum on the Big Island of Hawaii to honor the 5<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Divisions who trained there. It was a valiant effort by many, but COVID, and the closing of the University of Hawaii's Ko Heritage Center brought an end to that effort to establish a Virtual Museum.



FMDA members Ray Elliott, wife Vanessa Faurie, and Valerie Lemman Cohen enjoyed the IJAA Symposium held in Arlington, Virginia, 15-18 February 2024.

IJAA's General David Bice announced this year's Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima had, unfortunately, been canceled because of volcanic activity off the coast of the island.

In March of this year, a newly formed 66 foot high island off Iwo was swallowed up by the ocean. Boulders had rained down on the invasion beaches, making the location too dangerous to hold this year's planned reunion.



## *FMDA MEMBER BOOK*

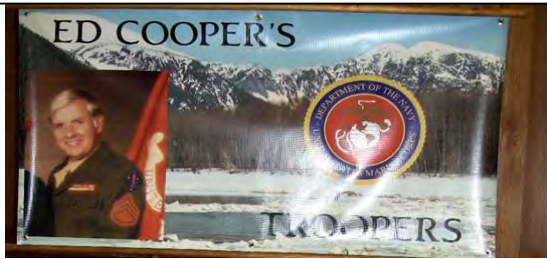


PRE-ORDERS AVAILABLE. SEND ADDRESS AND \$25.00 (includes S/H)

Coming in Spring 2024 is the authorized, first-hand account by the commander of the company that raised two American flags atop Mount Suribachi during the World War II battle of Iwo Jima in February 1945 — a bloody battle that was immortalized in the world-famous, Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by Joe Rosenthal that helped inspire a war-weary nation to victory.

Before the company commander of E/2/28 on Iwo Jima passed on Aug 2, 2021, at age 102, he entrusted the draft of his own remembrances of the historic flag-raising, and his subsequent documentation of the numerous false claims he refuted, to Marine veteran and writer Ray Elliott and Tales Press for future publication.

# Military Groups



*How do organizations get started? How do groups with similar interests join together after a major war? It just takes one man who recognizes the need with a desire to assemble everyone. Ed Cooper embodied that talent. He was a Marine through and through.*

*His love of people and his Marine Corps motivated him to bring veteran Marines and sailors together just to visit, have a good time, and share their own current lives and past experiences. Cooper and friends founded an organization called Cooper's Troopers that is still active today and meets monthly in Arvada, Colorado.*

Cooper had served in Guam with the 11th Marines before he shipped out to Peking, China, and was assigned to an American Legation at an outpost fifty-seven miles southeast of Peking.

**Shortly after WWII ended, it was common to lose a Marine to Communist snipers and road mines in retaliation for the United States' support and re-arming of the Chinese Nationalist Forces.**

While he was there, a convoy of supply trucks, with radio jeeps were ambushed by the Communists. Both front and aft jeeps were destroyed, and several Marines were KIA. Ed was assigned as a squad leader to provide security for the American and Dutch Legations. ❖



**Association member and Iwo Jima veteran Al Jennings, 5<sup>th</sup> Division I-3-26, is a founding member of Cooper's Troopers. He attends FMDA Reunions with his son Randy who also lives in the Denver area.**

## Seeking Information

Any reader having information about **PFC Elden Haverstock** who served on Iwo Jima in B Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Combat Team 27 (Regiment) please contact Jeremiah Toole at [jeremiahtoole@gmail.com](mailto:jeremiahtoole@gmail.com)

Additionally, if anyone has a copy of a unit history book B company compiled in '45 at Camp Tarawa, his Grandson would greatly appreciate being able to scan some of the pages.



## SEMPER FI & AMERICA'S FUND

*Semper Fi & America's Fund was started in 2003 by military spouses who volunteered to provide bedside support to those wounded and injured while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operated today by those same military spouses, The Fund now includes a nationwide staff of patriotic veterans, community members, and volunteers.*

## TRIBUTE OF HONOR

### MEMORIAL HONOREE



**ART SIFUENTES, US Marine Corps  
JOHN POWELL, US Army  
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots**



*(Honored by all Marines)*



# 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association - Membership Form

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



## Membership Types :

New - Annual or Life Membership ( ) Renewal - Annual Membership ( )  
All Annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time.

## Membership Categories :

**5<sup>th</sup> Division Iwo Jima Vet** ( ) Platoon \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. \_\_\_\_\_

**5<sup>th</sup> Division Vietnam Vet** ( ) Platoon \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Legacy - Relative of 5<sup>th</sup> Division Iwo Jima or Vietnam Veteran :** ( )

Name & rank of Veteran \_\_\_\_\_

Platoon \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. \_\_\_\_\_ *If known*

Your Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### **Associate:** ( )

**All other Vets, any Branch or Division:** Iwo Jima ( ) Korea ( ) Vietnam ( ) Desert Storm ( ) Iraq ( ) Afghanistan ( )

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Div. \_\_\_\_\_ Platoon \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. \_\_\_\_\_

**Active Duty:** Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Div. \_\_\_\_\_ Platoon \_\_\_\_\_ Co. \_\_\_\_\_ Bn \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. \_\_\_\_\_

**Or** Historian ( ) Student ( ) Teacher ( ) Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Dues** (please check):

- ( ) Annual ..... \$ 25
- ( ) Lifetime (Age 64 & under)... \$150
- ( ) Lifetime (Age 65-79) .....\$100
- ( ) Lifetime (Age 80 & over).....\$ 50

### **Donation:**

( ) General Fund .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to FMDA**

# Registration Form

FMDA 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion - October 16-20, 2024, San Antonio

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

1. Your Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your Address \_\_\_\_\_
3. City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
4. Telephone Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_
5. Email \_\_\_\_\_
6. Names and relationships of guests accompanying you. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. **Circle** if you are: an Iwo Jima Vet/ a Vietnam Vet // relative of Iwo Jima vet/ relative of Vietnam Vet/  
Veteran or relative of another War Active Duty

8. **ALL** Vets: List Rank & Unit (Company, BN, Regiment) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Relative of vets: List name of vet, relationship, & all known rank & unit info  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. For logistical purposes, please *Circle* travel by car travel by airline - Flight #s \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival time \_\_\_\_\_ Departure \_\_\_\_\_ 11. List any disabilities or dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Please fill in Number of Persons & Amount: \*\*\* Iwo Jima Survivors Registration & Banquet Free**

1. **Registration** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 65 \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **Banquet** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 70 \_\_\_\_\_

[# Beef–New York Strip \_\_\_\_\_] [# Fish–Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_] [# Chicken–Grilled] \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Tour** – Museum of the Pacific War \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18 \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation Free

4. **Friday Night Dinner** TexMex \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **Drinks & Treats** daily in the Hospitality Room – free

**Grand Total :** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline September 1st, 2024. Mail Registration form & check payable to FMDA to Tom Huffhines, FMDA, P.O.BOX 728, Weatherford, TX, 76086 / Contact for questions:**

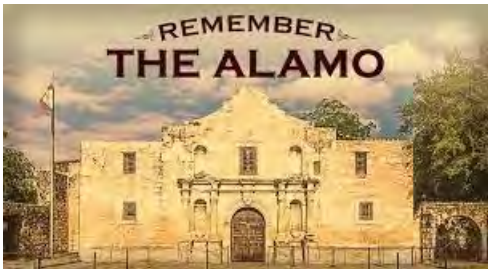
**Reunion Chairman Alfredo Cooke Email 7621shot@att.net or call 210-854-6024**

**Hotel Accommodations: You may book your own room reservations by contacting The Menger Hotel at (800) 345-9285; Ask for FMDA rate of \$169 (+taxes)**



**From:**  
**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
P.O. Box 728  
WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76086

**Forwarding Service Requested**



**5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association**  
**74<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion**  
**October 16 - 20, 2024**  
**San Antonio, Texas**

Highlights include a bus trip to the National Museum of the Pacific War.  
Guest speaker at the banquet will be Harold Overstreet, 12<sup>th</sup> Sgt Major of the Marine Corps.  
Thomas H. Begay, a 5<sup>th</sup> Division Code Talker, will sing the Marine Hymn in Navajo.  
Local Marine Gold Star Families will join us.

**REGISTER EARLY & RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW !!!**

**REGISTRATION FORM INCLUDED ON PAGE 35 OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

