



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**62ND ANNUAL REUNION - BRANSON, MISSOURI
OCTOBER 12 -15, 2011
GRAND PLAZA HOTEL**

Iwo Jima Reunion a 'resounding success'

By John Butler

Attendees at the 66th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium held Feb. 17-20 at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Va., called it "a resounding success." Some 176 members of the Iwo Jima Association of America, which hosted the event, were in attendance.

The first order of business was the IJAA board meeting held upon arrival Thursday. IJAA board chairman and Iwo Jima veteran LtGen Larry Snowden, USMC, (Ret.) was unable to attend, but in his absence, IJAA president LtGen Hank Stackpole, USMC, (Ret.) chaired the meeting.

All board members were present at this meeting, and a follow-up meeting was held on Sunday to conclude IJAA business. Another board meeting will be held later in 2011.

The board fully supported the appointment of Ray Elliott, current editor of *Spearhead News*, as the



Past Fifth Marine Division Association president Ivan Hammond, left of wreath, speaking at the dedication ceremony and pointing back at past Association president John Huffhines, right of wreath, who initiated the BAR on the Beach statue.

communications director for IJAA. Elliott, a Marine veteran, has written and published two novels about the aftermath of World War II. One of the novels,

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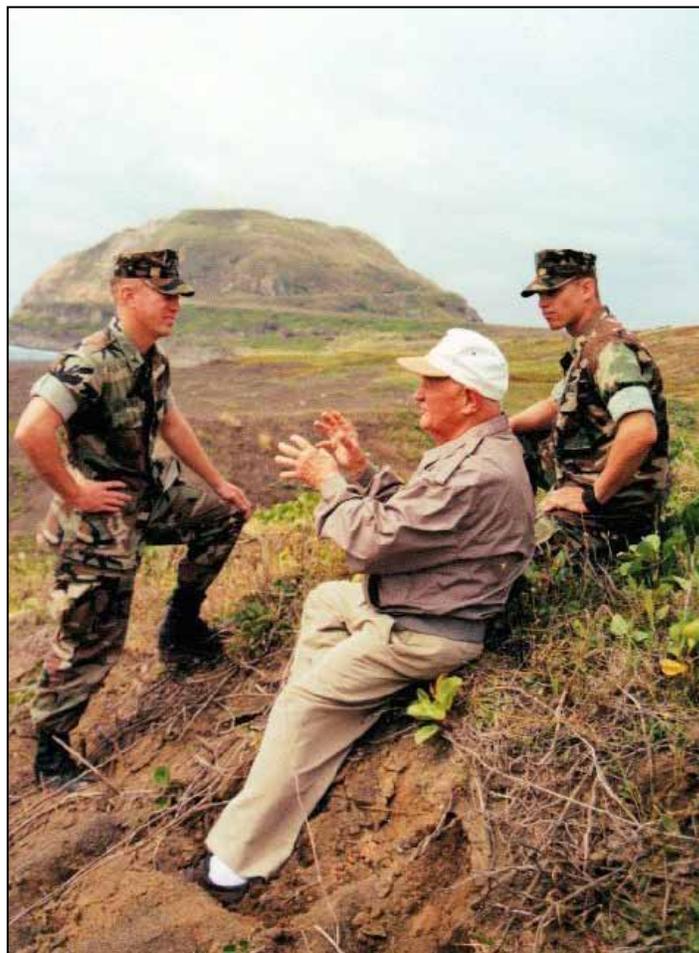
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Marine veteran Cyril J. O'Brien describes the conditions during the assault at "Green Beach" below Mount Suribachi to his escorts from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Lance Cpl David Welsh (left) and Cpl Chris Ruhter. Cy returned to Iwo Jima in March 2001 with other veterans participating in the Military Historical Tours "Reunion of Honor." Photo by Capt Gordon Peterson, USN (Ret)

**WWII combat correspondent
Cy O'Brien dies**

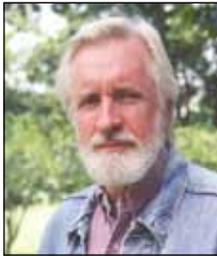
Marine combat correspondent Cyril J. O'Brien who was on Iwo Jima, as well as Bougainville and Guam, died Jan. 31 in a hospital in Bethesda, Md. He was 92.

In each of the last 14 years, he revisited Iwo Jima with other veterans and wrote about their experiences for various publications. During the March 2001 trip, Cy, as he was known, looked across the beach and simply said to tour director Warren Wiedhahn: "Suribachi ... its dreary presence."

O'Brien was a retired publications supervisor at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. His wife, Elizabeth, preceded him in death. He is survived by four children and seven grandchildren.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



Statue dedication in honor of all who fought on Iwo

Past Fifth Marine Division Association presidents Ivan Hammond (5th JASCO) and John Huffhines (H/2/13), members of the ad hoc committee responsible for raising the \$127,000 for the BAR on the Beach statue, spoke Feb. 18 at the official dedication of the monument's placement in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the Marine Corps Heritage Center as part of the Iwo Jima Association of America's 66th Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium held at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington, Va.

Huffhines initiated the statue at the end of his Association presidency. Then the late MajGen Fred Haynes (HQ-28), IJAA founder; Bert Clayton (5th SIG), former *Spearhead* editor; the late Tom Trye (D/2/13), Association legal officer; Ken Watterson (F/2/13-VN), past Association president; and Huffhines went to work to raise the necessary funds.

"Without Gen Fred Haynes, Bert Clayton, John Huffhines and Tom Tyre working tirelessly over the past four years," Hammond said, "this project would not have happened. Sculptor Robert Eccleston (also present) did a marvelous job fabricating the 6-foot bronze statue. And the Association contributed \$40,000 during Ken Watterson's year in office."

Hammond related the story many may not be aware of behind the Col Charles Waterhouse painting from which the statue was modeled. At 1230 hours on Feb. 19, 1945, Hammond said, he and other members of the Air Liaison Party No. 13 attached to the Third Battalion 28th Marines landed on Green Beach and were to follow an earlier ALP 700 yards across the island.

ALP No. 13 lost its radio jeep and trailer in the first 10 minutes. Retrieving their radio gear, the team moved to the first terrace; they got to the second one about 1300. At that point, Hammond said enfilading machine gun fire "about 2 feet above the second terrace kept them pinned down until 1600 when fire from

the north had stopped and a Marine from the Second Battalion 28th Regiment stood and "fired his BAR from his shoulder into the other machine gun nest, destroying it and wiping out the Japanese."

A BAR weighs about 22 pounds, and firing it from the shoulder is not the normal position. But combat is not a normal situation and the Marine stood and cleared the way for APL No. 13 to continue across the island. Lying wounded several yards away with his left arm paralyzed was Pfc Charles Waterhouse, a demolition man attached to the Third Battalion, 28th Marines, trying to find a way to the aid station.

"Some 30 years later," Hammond said, "when he became a renowned painter for our Marine Corps, Waterhouse recalled the incident and painted 'The BAR Man,' which was used as the model for the BAR on the Beach."

With that background in mind to symbolize the importance of paying tribute to all those who fought and died on Iwo Jima, Huffhines said, "Probably the most important reason for the erection of the statue" is the words of Fifth Marine Division Commander, LtGen Keller E. Rockey, that are "etched on the black granite pedestal of this monument (and) will inspire future generations of Marines and Americans to make the necessary effort and sacrifice to defend our great nation, the country of Washington, Jefferson and the patriots who won independence for America."

Gen Rockey wrote that the division "acted from the first hour like a unit of veterans. It fought that first tough fight with the utmost vigor, courage and intelligence. Few times in history has a force kept fighting in the face of losses such as our division suffered on Iwo Jima. The division followed attack with attack. It continued to assault the heavy resistance of a desperate enemy — until the last small pocket was overcome."

No doubt the colonel had those ideals in mind when he painted "The BAR Man." It honors the Marines of the Fifth Division — and all Marines on the island really — while telling the story artistically and quite vividly of the courage, the struggle, the sacrifice, the tenacity and, ultimately, the determination to continue the fight against overwhelming odds in their pursuit of victory on Iwo Jima, which was the one battle Marines fought where they had higher casualties than the enemy.

Make plans now to attend 2011 Reunion in Branson, Mo.

I hope most of the dinner table talk has been about our upcoming reunion in Branson, Mo., the entertainment and recreational center of the Midwest. As we went to press, the 2011 entertainment/theatre schedule had not been finalized.

Since the schedule wasn't available, I did not include a registration form. However, if you fire up your "puter" and go to www.explorebranson.com, you can get a look at the mind-boggling entertainment and recreational options that are available. Please do not purchase any tickets until we publish the registration form in the next *Spearhead News* edition.

Our reunion will be held 12-15 October at the Grand Plaza Hotel, 245 North Wildwood Drive, Branson, Mo.; telephone 800-850-6645 or 417-336-6646; fax 417-337-5535. The reunion discount room rates are as follows: Standard room with two queen beds and a 25" TV and more is \$82/night, plus 11.60 percent room tax. Mini-suites are \$102/night, plus room tax.

Each morning, you will wake up to a complimentary hot breakfast buffet 7-10 a.m. Once you register, should events happen that would cause you to change your plans, you must cancel 24 hours in advance of your check-in time. You may register now and be sure to mention the "Fifth Marine Division Association Reunion" to receive the discounted rate.

If you are driving to Branson, be assured that the Grand Plaza has plenty of FREE parking available. In the event you plan to fly, the Branson airport is only eight miles from downtown Branson. Car rentals and/or bus shuttle service is available. More information on Branson airport transportation and service is available at 888-359-2541 or 417-334-7813.

Let me explain why I am recommending/urging early hotel registration: There is a ton of work to do. For example, (1) we need to discuss and act on the proposed bylaws; (2) we have not elected any officers/

trustees since the Raleigh, NC, 2007 reunion, and the three trustees who were elected were completing the terms of three trustees who had stepped down – thus, one can safely say we need to replace five trustees; and (3) we also need to select reunion sites and presidents for the 2012 and 2013 reunions.

Hopefully, the 2012 site will be a city in the western half of the U.S., since three of the last four reunions favored the eastern half. This means that each of us must talk to our member friends who possess the energy and ability to accomplish the work of the position to which he is elected. TALK it up. We must find and elect the talent.

Remember the heritage of our beloved division and association that we gave the U.S. Marine Corps — the Marine Corps War Memorial at Arlington, Va. — with our involvement in the touchstone battles of World War II and the Vietnam War. If you nominate a member, be sure he or she is available and eager to serve.

The discussed "to do" work is the reason I am urging you to register early, such as arrive and check in on 11 October or sooner. We want to be ready to go on 12 October. It is my observation that with the 12-15 October reunion dates, some members may not arrive or check in until 12 October and miss out on some first-day events. So far, I have scheduled the following:

14 October

- 1000 Memorial Service
- 1200-1430 Showboat Branson Belle Cruise on Lake Table Rock (Lunch and Entertainment)
- 1530-1800 Business Meeting (Hospitality Room)

15 October

- 1800-2100 Banquet
- Entertainment and Closing Remarks

And I would like to schedule a meeting on 11 October at 1800-2100.

– LtCol Thomas Klaus, USMC, (Ret.)
President

Goodness lives

On Friday, Oct. 22, at about 4:30 p.m., something very traumatic happened to my wife Joyce and me, ages 84 and 82 years, while we were returning from the Fifth Marine Division Association Reunion in Biloxi, Miss. Joyce was driving on I-40 just north of Little Rock, Ark., when suddenly we found ourselves on I-440 going into downtown Little Rock.

Twice we stopped and asked people for directions back to I-40, but each time we ended in downtown Little Rock. We were overwhelmed by the commuter traffic and the feeling that goes along with not knowing exactly where we were.

As we were driving, I spotted a small bank, and I told my wife to drive into the parking lot. We both went inside to get help — we hoped. The first person I asked didn't know how to get to I-40, but one of the tellers said she could help. I told her we needed a map and directions.

There was one customer in the bank at that time, and he said that perhaps he could help. We explained that we needed to get to Conway and Highway 65 to get home in Harrison, Ark. He said he would take us to a certain street and point us in the right direction.

I told him that this would probably not help, as we were already nervous wrecks. He then said he would be glad to have us follow him all the way to Conway as soon as he finished his banking transaction.

I told him that would be good, and we would reimburse him for his time and effort. He told us that he would not accept anything. He also explained that we had almost 50 miles to travel in rush-hour traffic, and it would take at least an hour.

We did follow him all the way to Conway. After pulling into a gas station, I again wanted to pay him for his trouble and expense. I told him he had to take it or my wife would cry. That didn't change his mind; he wouldn't take anything.

We visited with him for a while, and then I told my wife that it was getting dark, and I didn't want us driving in darkness. Our new friend said that a friend of his manages the motel across the street from where we were, and he would try to get us a good price.

I said that sounds great, and we followed him across the street to the motel. He then told us to stay in the car while he made the arrangements. When he came out, he gave us two keys to a motel room and told us we were all set. We did not learn until the next morning

that we owed nothing on our room.

The name of our new friend is Aaron Henderson. He is 36 years of age and had spent 10 years in the military service. He is a fireman and is about ready to do his solo plane flight in hopes of eventually becoming a crop duster.

– Ted Overgard, Secretary
HS-13
Harrison, Ark.

Looking for Roscoe's burial place on old Camp Tarawa

Anyone who knows where Roscoe is buried on old Camp Tarawa, please contact Kathy Painton at 808-880-9880 or kathypainton@hotmail.com or Jim Browne at 808-883-0069 or barefoot@hawaii.rr.com.

We would like this important information for our tour and docent talks on old Camp Tarawa. All we know at present is that he is buried somewhere on the 401 acres of the campsite in Waimea (Kamuela).

Kathy and I have a map of the camp that was done after the division returned from Iwo. We would be very happy to send this map to pinpoint his gravesite.

– Jim Browne
Camp Tarawa Detachment
www.camptarawamcl.com

66th Iwo Jima Reunion rewarding

For me (the 66th Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium, sponsored by the Iwo Jima Association of America) was one of the most rewarding reunions I have attended.

It's a shame Bert A. Clayton could not have been there. He worked so hard to push the "BAR on the Beach" through; it takes a man like him to get something done.

The place setting on the hill below the chapel (for the BAR on the Beach statue) is so fitting!

I was not at the Biloxi Reunion. I think the Marine Corps gets impatience with us (Fifth Division). We had the opportunity to be there (for the dedication) but passed it up so they could be in Branson in October 2011.

All said, [the BAR on the Beach] was a beautiful dedication and a "Well done" to the Marine Corps and those in charge.

– Ted Dougherty
D/2/27
Reseda, Calif.

Iwo Jima memorial needs rescue mission

'Friends' raise cash for repairs

By Andrea Billups

The Washington Times

Time and weather have conspired to etch cracks in its structure. The bronze patina that once shone a proud Marine Corps green has dulled to a dingy brown. Water damage has pried loose polished granite panels, and puddles gather at the base. In all — hardly the spit-and-polish shape one expects for a memorial to the most gung-ho branch of the military.

That's no way to treat a monument honoring the vaunted tradition of the few and the proud, say members of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, who are marshaling supporters for a face-lift on the iconic Iwo Jima war memorial in Arlington, Va.

A nonprofit "friends" group has formed to work with the National Park Service and Marine Corps representatives to raise funds to improve the grounds and monument, which was dedicated in 1954 and pays tribute to U.S. Marines who have died in defense of the country since 1775.

"What we are hoping to do is work together to raise the funds and awareness of the memorial and its American history," said James Donovan, founder and executive director of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, which is leading the preservation efforts.

Those efforts include a \$450,000 museum-grade cleaning and wax sealing of the 32-foot bronze statue, which is based on the famed "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" photo taken Feb. 23, 1945, by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal.

"As far as updates, we haven't kept pace with the times and its needs," said Mr. Donovan, a former Marine corporal who served at the monument's Silent Drill Platoon from 1964 to 1968.

His organization also is seeking replacement of portable toilets on the grounds, work on interior roadways at its Arlington Ridge setting, a reception and visitors center and improved landscaping. Such a pres-



WEATHER-BEATEN: The faces of the Marines on the Iwo Jima war memorial in Arlington, Va., show the problems that the elements have caused over the years. Funds are being raised to make improvements to the monument, including a museum-grade cleaning and wax sealing. (Rod Lamkey Jr./Special to *The Washington Times*)

ervation effort could take up to 15 years to complete.

The foundation has set up a website (iwoflags.org) outlining its work and how to contribute.

The memorial was designed by sculptor Felix de Weldon and features the sailors and Marines who hoisted a second flag over Mount Suribachi on the Pacific Island of Iwo Jima, a pivotal victory and one of the bloodiest battles in the World War II campaign against Japan.

About 27 Medals of Honor were awarded for heroism in the 36-day fight to capture the Japanese island. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz is quoted in an inscription at the memorial: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

The National Park Service is responsible for upkeep and hopes to work with the Marine memorial foundation on the fundraising project. Jon James, deputy superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and the National Park Service spokesman for the project, said efforts and an agreement on the deal are in early stages with a memorandum of intent signed for the partnership. Mr. Donovan said the government hopes to have a final deal in place next month.

Continued on following page

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“It’s in a very conceptual stage at this point,” he said.

National Park Service conservators have inspected the memorial and recommended procedures for upkeep, he said. About \$60,000 is spent annually to maintain the entire area, including the grounds, statue and monument. Proposals include a flagpole lift to assist the Marines who raise and take down the flag each day, as well as improving landscaping, replacing trees and re-finishing gold-leaf gilding on certain areas.

Mr. James said he understood the drive to improve the monument in a place full of marble memorials honoring history and major American figures.

“It’s one of the most photographed vistas or scenic views in the U.S. — period,” he said.

Marine Col. Roarke Anderson, commanding officer of Headquarters and Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps at Henderson Hall, said: “It’s one of the most recognizable features in D.C. People look at the Jefferson Memorial and wonder about it, but they look at the Marine Corps memorial and say, ‘Holy cow.’ It’s do or die, one of the most inspiring symbols of what the Marines are, a feeling that Marines have. And it serves as an enduring tribute to the Marines in times of war and peace.”

Every Tuesday during the summer, visitors to the memorial park are treated to sunset military parades, offering a place to reflect on the martial pomp and circumstance and the sacrifices Marines make to defend American values and way of life.

“It’s not just the drill team and drum and bugle corps. Just think about the view that you get,” Col. Anderson said of the park’s vista. “Looking at that monument, looking out over D.C., it’s all right there. If you are patriotic at all, it will put pangs in your heart.”

He applauded Mr. Donovan’s restoration efforts, saying the former Marine wants repairs to be made the right way.

“It’s not a memorial to glorify war. It’s a memorial to glorify the sacrifices that Marines have made over the years,” Col. Anderson said. “It’s a way to make sure that our history is going to continue for the next generation to see and be an inspiration for us as well.”

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FINAL MUSTER ("Roll Call of the Reef")

CLAYTON, Bert **5TH SIG** 03/07/11
HAGER, Marion D. **E-2-27** 02/10/11
HINDBAUGH, Louis E. **D-2-26** 12/26/10
KERNS, Curtis W. **E-2-26** 01/02/11
KING, Robert L. **5TH PION** 12/10/10
McCARTAN, Edward J. **H-3-28** 01/08/11
PATRICK, Mrs. S. Jean **MM** 06/27/10



NEW MEMBERS

FLETCHER, Robert **ASSOC**

Life Member

JORDAN, James **ASSOC**

Annual-to-Life Members

BLAKE, Stanley **ASSOC**
GLENNON, Edward V. **5TH ENGR**
KEENER, Phillip K. **A-1-26**
McMANAMAN, Meryl **5TH SIG**
ROE, Arthur D. **E-2-27**
WELLS, Robert J. **C-1-28**

Secretary's Corner

If you have not paid your 2011 dues by April 30 of this year, you will be dropped from the membership roles. There are some people who have not paid their 2010 dues; those will be dropped by March 17. If you aren't sure of your due date, look at the address label on this or any old issue of Spearhead News; it will show Dec. 31, plus the year or LIFE. Please keep your membership current.

If you need information about college scholarships, you must contact the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation directly. That phone number is 800-292-7777.

Let us know of any change of address. Notice of final muster should also include the date of death along with the name of the individual.

If you are willing to host a reunion in 2012 or 2013, you will need to present this idea at the business meeting at the 2011 reunion next October in Branson, Mo.

— Ted Overgard
Secretary

State-of-the-art facility to preserve, promote history

Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center proposed for Waikola Village

The Camp Tarawa Detachment has formed the Camp Tarawa Foundation as a subsidiary to facilitate the building of a state-of-the-art museum and educational facility in the District of South Kohala on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

World War II ushered in an important era of military, ranching and farming history of South Kohala. Camp Tarawa was the area where the 2nd and 5th Marine Divisions trained in preparation for the Saipan-Tinian and Iwo Jima Campaigns and then for the anticipated invasion of Japan. Of the Marines who participated in the battle of Iwo Jima, 6,821 were killed in action or died of their wounds, and another 19,000-plus were wounded in action.

It is to these men who sacrificed so much for their generation and future generations, to the Parker Ranch and to the people of South Kohala in their support of the war effort that we dedicate our effort to build the Camp Tarawa Museum.

Our goals:

- Build a museum that will focus on Camp Tarawa, the Parker Ranch and the people of South

Kohala during a crucial era in our country's history: World War II, starting on Dec. 7, 1941, until the end of World War II and the 5th Marine Division left for the occupation of Japan.

- Create an education center where schoolchildren, visitors from around the world and the local population can learn about the World War II era in South Kohala.

- Develop state-of-the art archive storage so that items can be shared by other groups concerned with preserving the history of South Kohala and with keeping original documents and photos in the community.

- Build a multi-purpose meeting facility that can be used by community groups.

- Develop a resource center with a library focusing on local history and copies of original documents that may be used for research.

This summer, the foundation hopes to begin negotiating a long-term lease on three acres in Waikola Village. Members of the 5th Marine Division Association who may have anything they wish to donate to the museum archive, please contact the detachment historian/archivist Kathy Painton at 808-880-9880.



An architectural rendering of the proposed Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center at Waikola Village on the Big Island of Hawai'i. (Illustration used with permission)

A Life Remembered:

Earl Riggins, survivor of USS Indianapolis sinking

By Mary Schenk

The News-Gazette (Champaign-Urbana, IL)

OAKLAND, IL – One of the last few dozen survivors of the worst open-sea tragedy in United States naval history passed quietly Wednesday in a Decatur nursing home.

Earl Riggins was 86.

The Champaign native, who spent his waning years on his 27-acre spread in Oakland, was known for being a hard-working farmer, a prolific talker, an accomplished horseman, and one of the 39 Marines aboard the USS Indianapolis on its final run July 30, 1945.

Unknown to the men on board, they had just delivered components for the atomic bomb that would swiftly end World War II.

Struck by Japanese torpedoes, the ship went down in 13 minutes in the South Pacific, sending about 900 of the 1,200 crew members into the shark-infested waters where they clung to life for almost four days before being discovered. Only 317 were pulled alive from the water.

Of that number, it's believed 53 are still living.

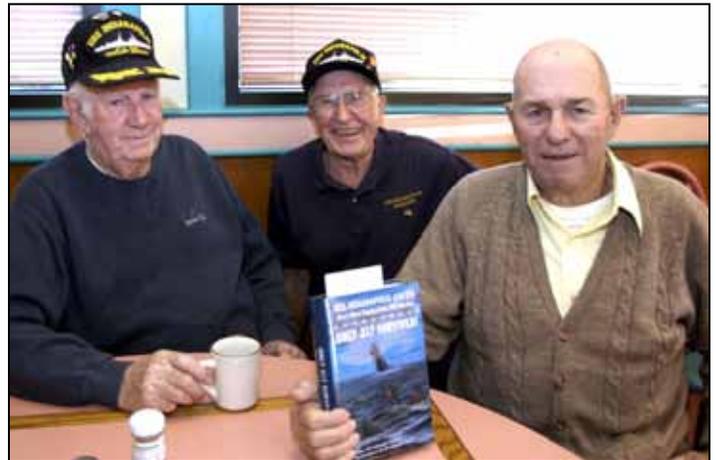
Riggins and his wife Dorothy, also 86, were among a core group instrumental in organizing the first reunion of the survivors in 1960. Only nine of the Marines lived.

"He was just a nice all-around farm boy," said longtime friend and fellow Indianapolis survivor Don McCall, 86, of Champaign. "That sounds crazy, but he was a central Illinois guy – very nice, very considerate."

Peggy McCall Campo, daughter of Don McCall, grew up attending USS Indianapolis reunions in Indiana's capital and is now active with the survivors' group. She can easily spit out many of the stories that have slipped from the memories of the aging survivors.

"He was such a friendly guy, so jovial all the time," said Campo. "He was always fun because he was a Marine. The Navy guys gave him a bunch of guff and he gave it right back to them."

Last Saturday, Campo and her father, along with several other friends they've made through their shared Indianapolis experience, made their way to Decatur to visit Riggins. One son of a now-deceased Indianapolis



Left to right, Don McCall, 86, of Champaign, Art Leenerman, 86, of Mahomet, and Earl Riggins, 86, of Oakland, discuss their shared experience as survivors of the USS Indianapolis in this 2004 photo. (Photo by Darrell Hoemann/The News-Gazette)

survivor even drove from Virginia to be there, Campo said.

"It was wonderful," Judy Whalen of Forsyth said of the visit her dad had with the friends. "It meant a lot to my dad. He definitely did (recognize them). He talked to them."

Among the visitors was Art Leenerman, 86, of Mahomet, also an Indianapolis survivor.

"He was a good, ordinary person. He was a farmer and that's what he liked to do. He raised horses, took horses to horse shows," Leenerman recalled.

Like McCall, Leenerman didn't get to be good friends with Riggins until after the reunions began in the 1960s. They didn't know each other on the ship, but living near each other in East Central Illinois, the three men and their wives got together frequently.

"We'd go out to lunch about once a month," Leenerman said.

In November, on Mr. Riggins' 86th birthday, he and his wife moved from their Douglas County farm to an assisted-living home in Decatur to be closer to their daughter.

"That was tough for him," Whalen said. "Dad was hugely involved in horses. He loved to trail ride. He taught my mom how to ride a horse at 75. They rode

Continued on page 13

IWO JIMA REUNION

Continued from page 1



A view of the back side of the BAR on the Beach statue features a quotation about the division's service on Iwo Jima from Fifth Marine Division commanding general LtGen Keller E. Rockey.

Iwo Blasted Again, is about an Iwo Marine wrestling with the devils of the battle in his last days. Elliott, who agreed to accept the appointment, steps into the big shoes of Cy O'Brien, one of World War II's noted combat correspondents who served on Iwo Jima and throughout his long life continued to contribute to the lore of the Marine Corps.

O'Brien was with the late MajGen Fred Haynes when he founded the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima – the name was later changed to IJAA to include all Iwo Jima veterans. The general recently passed away and will be sorely missed by IJAA, but his widow Bonnie Arnold-Haynes has been named to the board to continue the legacy.

Several new board members were also added. All are Iwo Jima veterans who join the legacy members

(children of Iwo veterans) who were appointed last year. The newly appointed board members are Ira Rigger, 106th Naval Construction Battalion; Dale Quillen, 3rd War Dog Platoon; and Ivan Hammond, 5th JASCO.

No activities were scheduled for Thursday afternoon or evening. Newly registered IJAA legacy members Leonard and Fletcher Isack, whose grandfather was a Fifth Division Marine lost on Iwo's Red Beach on D-Day, arrived from New Orleans and renewed their old friendship with me and others from the 2005 60th Anniversary "Reunion of Honor" tour to Iwo Jima with Military Historical Tours, the only group the Japanese government permits on the island one day a year.

Reunion events kicked off on Friday at 8:30 a.m. when attendees boarded the buses for Quantico to dedicate the Fifth Marine Division Association's

“BAR on the Beach” monument in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

Arriving at the center by 10 a.m., the group was ushered into the museum where colors were posted by Marines from MCB, Quantico. The invocation was given by Chaplain Paul Temblay. President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC, (Ret.) welcomed all the attendees and was followed by IJAA’s Gen Stackpole with his remarks regarding the “BAR on the Beach.”

Gen Stackpole introduced Ivan Hammond and John Huffhines, the two men from the Fifth Marine Division Association and part of a larger group that was largely responsible for the monument’s creation. They contributed short and informational remarks about the monument.

Particularly moving was Hammond’s account of then-PFC Charles Waterhouse’s inspiration for the painting as he watched a lone Marine BAR man stand and take on Japanese firing from a pillbox.

The attendees were then treated to the featured speaker, Gen Joseph E Dunford Jr., assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. Gen Dunford spoke elegantly of the importance of Iwo Jima’s legacy with today’s young Marine who is taking the fight to our nation’s enemies in Afghanistan and around the world where trouble is brewing. His speech was followed by the Marine Hymn, after which the general circulated through the crowd before they assembled at the site of the “BAR on the Beach” monument for the wreath laying presided over by Hammond and Huffines.

Following the wreath laying, all the present Iwo vets gathered in front of the statue for a group photo. The statue truly represents Col Waterhouse’s painting and will forever honor the Fifth Marine Division with the Spearhead logo and the words of the late LtGen Keller Rockey, commanding general of the Fifth Marine Division on Iwo Jima, inscribed on its base.

The legacy of the Fifth Marine Division is forever connected with the battle of Iwo Jima and is now forever physically present on Memorial Trail in Semper Fidelis



Legacy IJAA member John Butler, son of LtCol John Butler, 1/27 Battalion commander, killed on Iwo Jima, talks with LtGen John Kelly at the banquet.

Memorial Park of the Marine Corps Heritage Center, where attendees had lunch and toured the museum.

Friday night was Legacy Members night when the Iwo Jima kids (children of Iwo vets) gave presentations about their fathers’ participation in the battle. The event, held in the hospitality room, was informal and interactive with a good crowd of Iwo vets and their families.

A group of active-duty Marines from Henderson Hall helped set up the event. They remained throughout the evening, visiting and learning about Iwo Jima from talking to the Iwo vets and viewing the legacy kids’ displays which included photos, maps and a copy of the operation orders for the landing of 1/27.

I participated in the show-and-tell with a booklet history of my father’s 1/27 operations orders for the battalion landing on Red Beach 2, his map and photos of him and John Basilone’s machine gun platoon.

Diane Kuebler had a comprehensive display of the Seabee’s contribution during the battle and after the Marines left, including her father’s 31st Seabee Battalion, which was attached to the Fifth Marine Division. Kuebler had an ample display of material and answers for every question regarding the Seabees of Iwo Jima.

Kevin Jarvis had a very comprehensive display from his father’s role as a sergeant in the Third Engineer Battalion. Jarvis displayed many photos of the engineers at work during the fighting.

Another feature of the night was a pack of letters from the 7th grade classmates of a young IJAA member, Michael Scott. These letters to the current Marines were distributed by one of the Henderson Hall Marines.

A lively group kept the place open till very late. Beer, cold drinks and snacks were available throughout.

The morning symposium on Feb. 19 got underway at 8:30 a.m. with posting of the colors by the Young Marine Detachment from Quantico, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation.

A brief presentation of VA benefits was followed by Col Dick Camp's, USMC, (Ret.) informative attention-getting presentation of the pre D-day operations, including naval gunfire prep fires and the underwater demolition team/recon investigation of the beaches and underwater obstacles offshore.

Col Camp was followed by MajGen Mitsuru Nodomi, military attaché for the Japanese Self Defense Force and Embassy of Japan military aide. Gen Nodomi covered the Japanese defense of the island with emphasis on the challenge of delivering material and reinforcements ashore during the run up to D-Day.

The differences between the Japanese army and navy, which plagued Japan throughout the war, was also highlighted. Gen Nodomi introduced a representative of Nichimy Corporation, which is working to find the location of Japanese soldiers interred in mass graves.

Iwo maps had been distributed and Yoko Nagasaka Myers, representing Nichimy, asked that any Iwo veterans remembering or recalling the location of any graves to please indicate that location on the map and return it to them.

The final morning speaker was Patrick Mooney, a USMC Heritage Museum historian, who covered the ground battle as waged by the three Marine divisions.

A break for lunch, provided at the symposium, was then taken. BrigGen Carl E Mundy III, currently director of Strategy & Plans Division Headquarters Marine Corps, was the guest speaker. Gen Mundy also thanked the Iwo vets and emphasized that the legacy of Iwo remains with today's Marine.

Following lunch, noted author Jerry Yellin, an Iwo Jima P-51 Army Air Corps pilot who had arrived early and flew fire support missions for Marines fighting just north of the airfield, gave a most personal account of his life-changing experience as a P-51 pilot on Iwo Jima.

He flew 19 escort missions to Japan during his time on the island. Yellin, who had developed a deep hatred of the Japanese during the war, had a soul-changing

epiphany after his son married a Japanese girl. His talk was personal and moving.

Following Yellin, Jim Donovan, executive director of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, spoke to the attendees about the need for repair of the memorial. (Donovan later spoke about the foundation's efforts in the restoration process at the wreath laying ceremony at the memorial on Feb. 23, the 66th anniversary of the flags being raised on Mt. Suribachi.)

The final session featured a panel of Iwo Jima veterans who discussed their experiences — Ira Rigger, a 301st NCB Seabee, who had previously served on Guam and Peleliu; George Aldren, who landed in the assault with 1/27 on Red Beach 2 and was wounded on D+2; and Dale Quillen, who served with the 3rd War Dog Platoon until called to the front as an infantry replacement

Closing night banquet activities started with the reception at 6 p.m. The Marine Corps band provided a patriotic interlude until 7 p.m. when Master of Ceremonies, IJAA's Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC, (Ret.) opened activities with the order to "Post the Colors." Again, Colors were posted by the Young Marines from the Quantico detachment.

Following the invocation and retirement of Colors, Gen Stackpole introduced Guest of Honor Speaker LtGen John Kelly, USMC, commander Marine Force Reserve and Marine Forces North. Gen Kelly spoke passionately about the Marines of today and their tough fight against the Taliban, and though not mentioned by him but well known to others, his son, a Marine lieutenant, was lost in that fight in Afghanistan recently.

Gen Kelly also spoke of the Corps' need to remain amphibious. Following his speech and the dinner, he circulated throughout, meeting and visited personally with many attendees – an extraordinary and special gesture.

After the departure of the Marine Corps Band, the Radio King Orchestra, an exceptional swing band, took over, providing '40s swing music for dancing.

Special thanks should go to Shayne Jarosz, IJAA executive director and Fairfax, Va., high school history teacher who put in long hours along with Col Wiedhahn and his Military Historical Tours staff. Jarosz also did the difficult hands-on work during the event to make sure everything happened as planned and was ably assisted by his wife Nancy and son Patrick.

Moving into the future, the IJAA leadership and members are united and committed to preserving the legacy of Iwo Jima that was written in blood 66 years ago.

The end of the story ...

45 years later

Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC, (Ret.), executive vice president of operations of IJAA and president and CEO of Military Historical Tours, called me over one morning and pointed to man sitting across the table and said, “You gotta hear his story.”

The man was Bill Jayne. I caught up with him later and heard his story. He had served as a storekeeper on LST 399 in the Pacific. During his two years aboard the ship, he was responsible for ordering and storing “all foodstuffs, dry and perishables, and write up menus for all ships company and the Marine or Army assault troops.”

That included beer.

“We were underway going to the Marianas,” Jayne said, explaining that they were back up for the Saipan reserves and Marines on board ship for 60 days. “They were getting antsy, and you had to watch everything that wasn’t nailed down.”

Which apparently wasn’t possible because Jayne was called to the captain’s quarters and asked what he’d done with all the beer that was in the ship’s stores in the tank deck. When he couldn’t account for the missing beer, he was threatened with a court martial but was finally let go.

“So 45 years later,” Jayne said, laughing, “We go with Wiedhahn and Military Historical Tours back to Guam for the 50th anniversary. While we were having lunch one day, I overheard a guy, saying, ‘Yeah, I had a great time coming to Guam. I was able to get seven cases of beer, and we had a helluva time.’”

Jayne said he perked up and turned around and asked, “Did you say you were on an LST and got beer? You remember the number of the ship?”

“Yeah,” the Marine said. “It was 399.”

“You’re the guy,” Jayne said he hollered. “It’s been 45 years, and I’ve got the guy who almost got me court martial. I’m going to put you on report.”

The commanding officer happened to be in the room, and Jayne asked him if he could put the Marine on report for stealing beer 45 years ago, give him a captain’s mast or a court martial.

“We all had a big laugh,” Jayne said. “And that was the end of the story you never thought you would know.”

– Ray Elliott
Editor

A LIFE REMEMBERED

Continued from page 9

some really steep trails down in the Shawnee National Forest (in southern Illinois).

“His last trail ride was in July. He rode horses clear through to August. He lived and breathed horses,” Whalen said. “He met many, many great friends through the trail riding experience.”

Campo said many Indianapolis survivors, en route to the annual reunions, were known to stop at the Rigginses’ farm where they rode, hunted and reminisced.

Riggins will be buried in Grandview Memorial Gardens northwest of Champaign, not far from property he once farmed on Champaign’s west side.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years; Whalen, 51; and a son, Steve Riggins, 59, of Ontario, Canada. Another daughter, Linda, died in 1990.

He also has three grandchildren and was a huge cheerleader for two of his granddaughters.

“He lived and breathed coming to watch them play basketball,” Whalen said.

Like other Indianapolis survivors, Whalen said her father rejected any attempts to be labeled a hero.

“They wouldn’t have done anything different than any other man. Every man, whether they went through this experience or not, was there to serve and that’s all that mattered,” she said.

Editor’s note: Earl Riggins never served with the Fifth Marine Division, but he was a Marine and one of 39 Marines aboard the USS Indianapolis that had delivered the “Little Boy” atomic bomb to Tinian and was on the way to the Philippines, unescorted, when a Japanese torpedo struck it on July 25, 1945. Only 317 of the nearly 1,200-man crew survived. Earl was a life member of the Richard L. Pittman Marine Corps League #1231, named after a Marine who was killed at the foot of Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 21, 1945. The detachment originally had six Iwo Jima veterans, two of whom died in 2010 – one on Feb. 23, the 65th anniversary of the flag raising on Mt. Suribachi. Three are still members. Earl always said he wasn’t a hero, but most people would agree that what he and the other Marines and sailors from the USS Indianapolis did to survive was quite heroic.

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Statement of Income

Year Ended December 31,	2010	2009
INCOME-		
-Dues	4,720.00	11,135.00
-General	1,376.15	1,088.00
-Membership receipts	6,096.15	12,223.00
-Reunion	5,403.10	0.00
-Interest income	209.27	6,832.63
-Total income	11,708.52	19,055.63
EXPENSE-		
-Administrative services	4,051.08	14,005.84
-Office	1,429.33	1,353.08
-Reunion	0.00	3,000.00
-Spearhead News, production & distribution	4,764.27	8,804.46
Operations expense	20,244.68	27,163.38
-Donations to--		
BAR on the Beach Fund	0.00	40,000.00
Camp Tarawa Foundation Fund	10,000.00	0.00
Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund	25,000.00	0.00
Total donations	35,000.00	40,000.00
Total Operations expense & donations	55,244.68	94,326.76
 Net operations & donations expense	 (43,536.16)	 (75,271.13)

Statement of Accounts

	Balance 31-Dec-10	Change 31-Dec-09	Inc/(Dec)
ASSETS			
Bank Account	32,284.28	39,640.40	(7,356.12)
Investments-			
Bank of America CD 2.23% due February 21, 2010	0.00	36,180.04	(36,180.04)
Gold in deposit, at cost Market value \$71,055.00 at December 31, 2010 and \$55,905.00 at December 31, 2009	61,000.00	61,000.00	0.00
Total Investments	61,000.00	97,180.04	(36,180.04)
 LIABILITIES	 0.00	 0.00	 0.00
 Net Worth	 93,284.28	 136,820.44	 (43,536.16)

From the Volcano to the Gorge

By Howard N. McLaughlin Jr.
and Raymond C. Miller
Tower Publishing, 334 pages

By Ray Elliott

If you were among the first of an eventual 30,000 Marines of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine divisions who landed on Iwo Jima starting at 8:59 a.m. on the morning of Feb. 19, 1945, you've got similar stories to those Howard N. McLaughlin Jr. (H&S/5th ENGR) and Raymond C. Miller (H/3/28) write about in their memoirs of the 36 days they spent on the island.

Even if you were one of the rest of the 40,000 Marines who eventually came ashore in support of the three divisions, you know the drill. But if you weren't there during that time, what McLaughlin and Miller have to say about their experiences will give you a good idea of the trials and tribulations they lived through on a daily basis and how they survived then and later.

McLaughlin did not even expect to go ashore for three days because he was a mechanic assigned to a reserve landing team. But three hours into the campaign, he and other engineers were told to get their gear and prepare to head for the beach, not as mechanics but as a machine-gun crew. Things weren't going well on the beach.

Miller landed about 12:30 p.m. with the 18th wave.

"If that sounds like we landed along with the USO, the Stage Door and the Bob Hope Show," he said, "not so!" Like some previous waves he'd heard virtually "disappeared from massive enemy gunfire," Miller said they "were greeted by a hail of bullets and mortar shells and maybe some rockets."

Both men write about joining the Marine Corps, how they got there, where they came from and approach their individual experiences in a chronological order — for a while.

Then McLaughlin comes to the conclusion, writing years after Iwo Jima "as a history lesson" for his family that "a structured account of events is impossible — all continuity disappears — and my reminiscences are no longer chronological." After the first few days, he had no concept of time, just memories over the rest of the days he spent in combat and of events that happened in his immediate area.

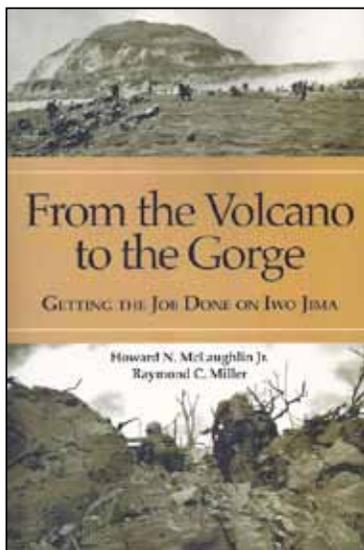
Writing years after the war, too, Miller remembers looking in at the island as he was heading to the beach, a broader panoramic view. Then when the ramp drops on the beach, he writes, "the war began for me." No doubt there was fear in everyone, he says, but he adds that he can't say he ever "felt scared, in a normal sense of the term, but there was a tension that was always there."

After the war, both men had the usual problems of adjustment. McLaughlin writes about nightmares and flashbacks; Miller says "that incessant 'buzz' in you body — the ever-present feeling of fear — was "always there," even in sleep.

Each had a successful career, McLaughlin was a civil engineer for 40 years; Miller was a bit more diverse and was "among other things, a designer of machine tools, a psychologist, an inventor and a musician."

If you were on the island as a Marine 66 years ago, this book will take you back; if you weren't there, this book will give you a good idea of what it was like.

Copies are available from Tower Publishing, 588 Saco Rd., Standish, ME 04084, for \$16.95, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. Telephone 800-969-8693 to purchase by credit card, or go to Amazon.com for either print or Kindle editions.



First reunion of USS Iwo Jima Shipmates

The USS Iwo Jima Shipmates organization invites all shipmates who served on board the USS Iwo Jima (LPH2/LHD7) at any time to attend the first reunion in Newport News, Va., June 1-6, 2011, at the Marriott Hotel City Center. A Memorabilia Room will be provided to socialize with shipmates and to peruse photos, cruise books or other memorabilia from the ship. A block of 55 rooms will be held until 29 April 2011. Reservations must be made directly with the hotel at 866-329-1758.

USS Iwo Jima Shipmates; c/o Robert G. McAnally; 152 Frissell Street; Hampton, VA 23663

