



# Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**64TH ANNUAL REUNION - SAN DIEGO, CALIF.  
SEPTEMBER 9 -13, 2013  
HANDLERY HOTEL AND RESORT**

## University of Montana honors Iwo veterans

By Kim Briggeman  
MISSOULIAN

Their eyes have seen the horrors of Iwo Jima, and for years it wasn't anything either Harry Hayden or Ron Scharfe felt much like talking about.

The pivotal World War II battle in February and March 1945 cost the lives of more than 6,800 Americans and 21,000 Japanese, and changed the survivors forever.

It also secured for U.S. troops a key island in the South Pacific to provide landing strips for giant B-29s on bomb runs to and from Tokyo. Five months later, the war was won.

It took another shattering event a half-century later – the death of his wife Mary in 1995 – to unleash pent-up memories for Scharfe, 86.

"When I lost the wife to cancer, then they'd come



Iwo Jima survivors, from left, Gene Bell, Ron Scharfe and Harry Hayden (C/1/26) are honored for their service by the Law Military Society during a ceremony at the University of Montana law school.

(Photo by Michael Gallacher/MISSOULIAN)

back just in flashbacks. Every two weeks, I'd have flashbacks," he said.

Traci Scharfe was 26 at the time, and she hadn't heard her father talk about Iwo Jima.

*Continued on page 6*



**TONY DE SANTIS**  
Secretary  
Fifth Marine Division Assn.

2560 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Ste 200  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
Tel.: (727) 791-4020  
Email: fifthmda@gmail.com

**SPEARHEAD NEWS**

*Published four times annually in the interest  
of the 5th Marine Division Association*

**EDITOR**

Ray Elliott

2609 N. High Cross Road, Urbana, IL 61802  
(217) 384-5820; [talespress@talespress.com](mailto:talespress@talespress.com)

**FOUNDING PRESIDENT**

Gen. Keller E. Rockey

President ..... Bill Behana  
Vice President ..... Bob Mueller  
Secretary ..... Tony De Santis  
Treasurer ..... (Vacant)  
Legal Officer ..... Stephen Lapardo  
Sgt-at-Arms ..... Eugene Blase  
Chaplain ..... Billy Joe Cawthron  
Trustees ..... Tony De Santis,  
Ivan Hammond, Warren Musch,  
Penny (DeFazio) Pauletto and Guy "Al" Stratton

***In This Issue:***

Forget Me Not .....	2
The Editor's Desk .....	3
Letters.....	4
Man who provided flag on Iwo dies .....	4
USS Indianapolis Reunion .....	4
Final Muster .....	5
Secretary's Corner .....	5
West Coast Reunion summary .....	7
Death mask of Iwo flag-raiser laid to rest .....	8
Gittelsohn's Memorial Address .....	10
Business Meeting Minutes and Financials .....	12
New Members .....	13
64th Reunion Registration Form .....	15

**Archived issues of Spearhead News are  
available to view at [www.talesspress.com](http://www.talesspress.com)**

***Forget Me Not***

Submitted by Billy Joe Cawthron, Chaplain

I was but seventeen years old. A lot was going on in my life. I enjoyed football, baseball. I loved fishing, and a lot of other things that a young man enjoys.

But something had happened that I did not understand. We had been attacked and caught "with our pants down." We were given a good licking. I wanted to be part of the team that was going to pay them back. I told Dad that I wanted to volunteer and asked him to sign for me.

I looked at the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. I thought I sure would look great in Dress Blues, so I chose the Marine Corps. I went to the Recruiting Office and thought it would be several weeks before I was called up. Boy! Did I have a lot to learn! I was on my way to Boot Camp by 4 a.m. the next morning.

I arrived at Boot Camp. The sergeant explained that we were not Marines – that we were stupid – the lowest human beings on the earth. We would be told when to sleep, when to get up, when to eat, when to bathe, when to walk, when to run. He said there was one thing we could do on our own. I wondered what that could be. He said, "You can breathe on your own!"

The following weeks, I was sure the drill instructor's purpose was to kill us. I thought I was going to fight the Japanese, but as it turned out, I would love to have had the drill instructor in my rifle sights.

After Boot Camp, we had more training. Slowly, I could understand what they were doing – they were making a fighting unit out of us.

I remember a sergeant telling us that we were being taught how to fight and live so we could fight again and again.

The time came to put all this training to good use. We were now Marines! Many days aboard an APA in a hole that was hot and smelly, I was sure the purpose was to make us willing to go ashore – regardless of the danger it might bring.

Finally, the day arrived. We were in landing craft, heading for the beach. I thought about many things – my family, the good times I'd had, and the men I had been training with. Yes, I knew that not all of us would be leaving the island. Yes, I prayed that God would help me do my part, as I knew my fellow Marines would do.

I was one of the many who did not get to leave this island. My prayer is that you might not forget the price I paid, that you might have the life you have enjoyed. You see, I gave up so much. I never knew the joy of having a wife or a son or daughter. I never felt the arms of a little one around my neck and the kiss of love upon my cheek.

I'm not complaining. I knew the cost that combat could be. I went willingly, and I would do it again. I had no regrets, but please, do not forget me. And protect and cherish the freedom that I bought for you. Forget Me Not!

## THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



### William Douglas “Bill” Lansford — 1922-2013

Like many Marines who landed on Iwo Jima with the Fifth Marine Division on Feb. 19, 1945, Bill Lansford had already served in other campaigns in the Pacific Theater before reporting to Camp Pendleton when the division first started forming in late 1943.

The official date of activation was Jan. 21, 1944, although combat veterans (like Bill) and necessary equipment had been streaming into Camp Pendleton weeks before, and the division’s headquarters battalion had been operating since the first of December.

Bill enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940 and served with the First Provisional Marine Brigade in Iceland, then joined the famed Carlson’s Raider Battalion in the early days of the Pacific Campaign — including Midway in May 1942, Guadalcanal in November and December, taking part in the battalion’s “long patrol” and finally Bougainville in November 1943, after which the Raiders were disbanded.

With more than three years overseas and several campaigns under his belt, Sgt Lansford was sent back to the States and went home on leave to East Los Angeles where he was born in 1922 to a Scots-Irish/English father and a Mexican mother. After only a few days, Bill told his mother he had to report early and headed to Camp Pendleton before Christmas 1943.

“I didn’t have to report early at all,” Bill told me during a visit at his Playa del Rey, Calif., home in 2010. “But I’d been overseas and gone so long I just couldn’t stand civilian life.”

The first man he saw when he arrived at Camp Pendleton was “Manila John” Basilone, who had also fought on Guadalcanal and was awarded the Medal of Honor for holding off a Japanese assault. Both men were later assigned to 1/27 and served under First Battalion commander LtCol John Butler on Iwo Jima and landed on Red Beach One early on Feb. 19, 1945.

“Basilone got hit,” Lansford said he heard somebody holler that morning. “I went over to see him about 15 minutes later and saw him lying there, dead.”

Bill survived and went on to serve in the Occupation

of Japan before being discharged in 1946. Then, like many other World War II veterans, he attended college under the G.I. Bill and later worked as a reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News. When the Korean War came along, he served as an Army officer, a radio writer for Armed Forces Radio and received a Bronze Star for his reporting of the ten-day Battle of White Horse Mountain in October 1952, a crucial turning point in the war.

After Korea, Lansford started free lancing for a number of magazines, writing several non-fiction books and teleplays for several American television series.

I was familiar with his 1965 book, *Poncho Villa*, more for the 1968 movie based on the book, (*Villa Rides*, starring Yul Brynner) than I was with his other work. Good book, I told him.

“Yeah, but a terrible movie,” he said, “It paid for this place, though.”

What did you write for television? I asked him.

“Oh, a number of things,” he said. “Probably nothing you’ve ever heard of ... ‘Bonanza,’” mentioning one of my long-time favorite TV series first, then “Wagon Train,” “The Rookies,” “Starsky and Hutch,” “CHiPs” and “Star Trek: The Next Generation.”

He also wrote the screenplays for made-for-TV movies depicting Jesse James (*The Intruders*) and Charles Whitman (*The Deadly Tower*). And he wrote and directed the film *Adios, East Los*.

Shortly before his death, Bill had written a two-part series, “Clyde Thomason: The Forgotten Hero,” that his widow, Ruth, and *Leatherneck* editor Walt Ford advised me later would be published in the upcoming August and September issues.

Bill chose “The Forgotten Hero” as the title for the two-part series, Ford said, because it is often overlooked that Sgt Thomason earned the first Medal of Honor by an enlisted Marine in World War II, not Basilone, as is often believed and reported. Thomason received the MOH, posthumously, for the Aug. 17, 1942, assault with the Carlson Raiders on Butaritari Island on Makin Atoll.

Basilone’s MOH came on Oct. 24, in the furious battle for Henderson Field during an attack over four days by 3,000 Japanese from the Sendai Division.

“Bill really had a gift when telling a tale,” Ford said. “His writings bring history to life and his last article truly stands out as a tribute to his talents while reminding Marines of another piece of their heritage.”

Before he died, Bill also completed a novel, *The Wind and the Ships*, based on the first Kamikaze attack. The soon-to-be-published novel “tells the story of the men who formed Kamikaze Corps and the men who commanded the American ships in one of the war’s most ferocious air/sea engagements.”





### Defense secretary presents coins to veterans in Hawaii

[Pictured above,] U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta presented his personal coin to selected veterans at the 2012 Veterans Day ceremony at the Punchbowl in Honolulu, Hawaii. [Past Association President] LtCol Tom Kalus was one of those veterans.

– Dr. Janet Kalus  
Honolulu, Hawaii

### More information provided about flag photo

This is about Ernie Peterson's flag picture in the Summer 2012 issue [of *The Spearhead*]. All the names on the flag were members of 13th Marines. They are listed in the roster of the 13th Marines in the 5th Division history book.

When the 5th Division went home from Japan, the low point men were transferred to the 2nd Division. Some of us went to the 10th Marines in Isihaya and Nagasaki. If Ernie was in a gun section, maybe this is his gun section. Those flags were able to be bought in Japan.

– Roger L. Emery (I/3/13)  
Lancaster, N.H.

### Man who provided flag on Iwo dies

Alan Wood, the Navy officer who provided the flag that was raised on Iwo Jima and pictured in the iconic photograph, died April 18 at his home in Sierra Madre, Calif., at age 90.

Wood was a 22-year-old in charge of communications on LST-779 near the base of Mt. Suribachi when a Marine came on board one morning asking for the largest flag he could find. Wood provided a 37-square-foot flag he had found months earlier in a Pearl Harbor Navy depot.

Col Dave Severance, USMC Ret., who commanded E/2/28 (the company that took Mt. Suribachi), recently confirmed that it was Wood who provided the flag.

“The fact that there were men among us who were able to face a situation like Iwo where human life is so cheap, is something to make humble those of us who were so very fortunate not to be called upon to endure any such hell,” he wrote in 1945, according to his obituary in the L.A. Times.

## ~ USS INDIANAPOLIS SURVIVORS ORGANIZATION ~

Anyone interested in the incredible story of the USS Indianapolis is invited to participate in the

# 68th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

August 1 - 4, 2013

Hyatt Regency in Downtown Indianapolis, Ind.

Meet with survivors; honor the 880 men lost at sea; and help cherish the memories of those who have passed since 1945. According to the organization's records, 38 of the 317 who survived the sinking of the USS Indianapolis in 1945 are living today.

For more information, contact Peggy McCall Campo at [pcampo4@yahoo.com](mailto:pcampo4@yahoo.com) or 217-377-9783; or Elko Perchysyn at [elko@ukraniangiftshop.org](mailto:elko@ukraniangiftshop.org) or 612-270-9345.

# FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")

ADAMS, Charles M. **F-2-26** 2/9/2013  
BEAU, Jerome J.C. **HQ-1-26** 2/2/2010  
BERRY, Neil **HQ-1-26** 11/10/2012  
JOHN L. Brown **5THMED** 11/5/2012  
BURNS, Bernard V. **4THMAW** 1/31/2011  
CORLEY, Robert O. **HQ-26** 1/28/2013  
DAWSON, Bert H. **C-1-26** 9/12/2012  
DRAGULA, Alben **27THMAR** 4/17/2013  
DUTTON, Howard L. **5THJASCO** 12/5/2011  
FEAMAN, Vernon C. **5THSIG** 6/1/2011  
FALZARANO, Louie G. **5THENGR** 9/1/2011  
GOERG, Herbert F. **WPNS-28TH** 2/8/2013  
HANSEN, Robert B. **5THPION** 4/12/2013  
HOLMAN, Sam L. **WPNS-28TH** 11/9/2012  
HUBA, Albert L. **B-1-13** 12/31/2012  
HUGHES, Al A. **A-1-28** 1/6/2013  
JORDAN, Loring K. **5THPION** Not reported  
KENDRICK, Stanley **5THENGR** 1/25/2012  
LANSFORD, Wm. D. "Bill" **B-1-27** 5/22/2013

LARRIMORE, Francis E. **5THMT** 3/4/2013  
LEWENTHAL, Lloyd A. **D-2-28** 6/2/2013  
LINQUIST, Walter A. **I-3-26** 5/28/2013  
MARENNA, Vincent R. **5THENGR** 11/5/2012  
METZ, Maurice O. **5HTANK** 6/17/2013  
MILLER, Richard B. **28THMAR** 4/5/2013  
MILLER, Robert **5THENGR** 4/4/2012  
MORGAN, Thomas B. Sr. **5THDUKW** 5/8/2013  
MURRAY, Joseph F. **5THENGR** 8/27/2012  
PETERS, Warren A. **A-1-28** 5/17/2013  
OPLANSKY, Jerome D. **5THENGR** 1/29/2012  
PRILOP, George I. **5THAMPHDUKW** 1/27/2013  
ROSS, Walter Dudley, Jr. **D-2-27** 6/8/2012  
STEGNER, Kent F. **A-1-28** 12/23/2012  
TAGGART, Bill B. **5THRECON** Not reported  
THOMPSON, Hurben C. **5THENGR** 10/22/2012  
VORHIS, Donald G. **I-3-28** 5/17/2013  
WAGNON, Tim W. **C-1-27** 12/24/2011  
WALTERS, Lester A. **HQ-2-2013** 5/16/2012

**Editor's Note:** Please send Final Muster notices (including name, unit and date of death) by email to Spearhead Editor at [talespress@talespress.com](mailto:talespress@talespress.com), by USPS to Spearhead Editor, 2609 North High Cross Road, Urbana, IL 61802 or by calling 217-384-5820. Please correct any errors and provide date of death for those listed as unknown.

### Correction:

Harold Bertrand, 5HTANK, died 2/3/2013. This was incorrectly reported in the last issue of Spearhead.

## Secretary's Corner

Hello, Fifth Marine Division Association. I am sorry I missed you in the last newsletter, but I am back this issue. You will find the finances for 2012, as well as the minutes from the last business meeting in this newsletter. In the fall, I did try and sell the gold; however, finding a reputable buyer was a little more difficult than anticipated, as I don't invest in precious metals myself. However, once tax season ended for me, I got back on the search. I have the names of two reputable dealers that I can follow up with to finally get this gold sold.

Summer is here, and the reunion is just around the corner. For those of you traveling to San Diego, Bill has some great things planned. He has been hard at work setting up a reunion that will be enjoyable for all who are able to make the journey. And for those who

can't, rest assured you are in our thoughts during that time. Through the week we are together, there is plenty of reminiscing. Speaking of reunions, we need to be thinking about upcoming reunions in 2014 and 2015. Warren Musch is checking out the possibility of hosting the 2014 reunion. Any suggestions or volunteers are welcomed for hosting the reunions. Any member can host the reunion, and some of the younger members have offered to assist, as needed.

I have previously mentioned that the grandson of Judy, my administrative assistant, was headed to boot camp. He successfully completed his training and is now a proud Marine. After a few weeks home and some additional training, he was off to Okinawa.

All the best, and I look forward to see you in San Diego,

– Tony De Santis, Secretary

Spring/Summer 2013 | Spearhead | 5

## HONOR

*Continued from page 1*

“I knew Dad was in the war, but now I love hearing all the stories about it,” she said.

“I’ve got memories. I mean, I think about ’em every day, really,” said Hayden, 86, who grew up in Beach, N.D., but has lived for more than 30 years in Belgrade, Mont. “Your mind goes and you’ve got nothing to do, especially like I am in a nursing home.”

Scharfe and Hayden were among four World War II veterans honored April 29 at the University of Montana law school, by the school’s Law Military Society.

They were joined by Gene Bell, 87, of Kalispell, Mont., a fellow Marine who watched the battle on Iwo Jima from a hospital ship for 13 days, and Jerry Bell, Gene’s twin brother, who wasn’t at Iwo but ended up on Okinawa with the Army later in the spring of ’45.

Each semester, members of the Law Military Society and the ROTC honor valiant military service with a similar commemoration, said 2nd Lt. Brad Jones, a second-year UM law student who served as master of ceremonies.

\*\*\*

Few saw as much of the carnage and the triumph on Iwo Jima as Hayden. He was in on the initial landing on Feb. 19 and remained for 32 of the 36-day campaign. Of the original 42 Marines in his platoon, only three survived without being wounded or killed.

At that pace, a sprained ankle may have saved Hayden’s life. He woke up on the fateful morning, climbed out of his foxhole and stepped on a rock.

“It tipped my ankle over and I went down like a shot,” Hayden recalled. “I crawled back to the CO on my hands and knees, and he sent me back to the hospital to get it taped up.”

Normally, he said, the medics would have doctored the ankle and kept him in sick bay for a day or two until he could walk. Then they would have sent him back to battle.

“The doc at the hospital said, ‘How long you been up there?’ I said, ‘32 days.’ He said, ‘Would you like to get out of here?’ I said, ‘You got that right.’”

Next thing Hayden knew, he was on a hospital ship headed first for Guam, then Hawaii.

Dale and Larry Hayden brought their father, who

uses a wheelchair, to Missoula from Belgrade for the day’s event. It wasn’t until the past decade or two that he’d talk about Iwo.

“I think he just tried to forget it for all those years,” said Dale.

Even now, he added, Harry has nightmares about the island. Nothing dramatic in his life occurred to prompt him to open up about his war experiences.

“I don’t think so,” Larry Hayden said. “He just started realizing that there are going to be fewer and fewer of them, and if he didn’t start talking, nobody would.”

\*\*\*

Even small celebrations like this one that drew 75 students, families and veterans, are important, Gene Bell said.

He’s one of only three remaining members of the board of directors for the Iwo Jima Association of America who was actually there, and spends a lot of his time speaking to high schools and civic organizations. Bell said he traveled

to Washington, D.C., five times last year in that capacity.

“We don’t want people to forget what happened,” he said.

“This was really nice. I really appreciated it,” Scharfe said afterward. “You know, you never forget things. You never forget the guys you left over there. It’s always in your mind.”

Iwo Jima was returned to Japanese hands in 1968. Today, the tiny island (just eight square miles) is a military base. It’s opened one day a year for a Reunion of Honor for both American and Japanese survivors. Hayden and Bell have made trips back to Iwo.

But Bell said the annual event, which began in 1995 on the 50th anniversary of the battle with the help Ambassador Walter Mondale, is in jeopardy.

“Japan’s getting kind of hinky about it,” he said. “We hope we can continue, but it doesn’t look good.”

Scharfe, who was on Iwo Jima during the battle for more than a week, said the cost of the Reunion of Honor has prevented him from going along.

“If I could get someone to sponsor me, one of those big outfits like Allegiance or something, I wouldn’t mind going back,” he said.



Hayden

---

*Reprinted with permission. (C) The Missoulian.*

# Mission accomplished for successful West Coast reunion

**By Gail Chatfield**

BrigGen Vincent Coglianesi, Commanding Officer Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, promised that the Pacific View Events Center on base would be ready for our Iwo Jima Commemorative Banquet on March 23, 2013. But those of us on the banquet committee weren't so sure.

Scheduled retrofitting of the Center's plumbing and electrical systems postponed the reunion from its traditional February landing-on-Iwo-Jima date to the now end-of-battle date in March.

A week before the event our committee stood outside the portable chain link fence that surrounded the Center. The parking lot was packed with construction trucks and equipment and the building was enveloped in scaffolding. Workmen on top of the roof moved around pipes and vents as they shouted orders to those on the ground.

Would this chaotic construction site be finished in time? Would we have to cancel? We had no fallback position.

Ah, we of little faith. We should have known that the Marine Corps will accomplish the mission, whatever that mission may be.

When the Iwo Jima veterans and their families arrived for the Sunset Memorial on Saturday afternoon, the Center was completely transformed into the beautiful, flag-laden building that has hosted our reunions for years.

The memorial and banquet were the last events of the three-day reunion that included two days of tours.

Once again Camp Pendleton arranged an extraordinary tour of the base on Thursday. It's always an honor to be picked up at the hotel in 'Big Blue,' the bus used exclusively to transport Pendleton's 1st Marine Division Band.

The tour began with a demonstration of weapons and techniques used by the Provost Marshal's Office Special Reaction Team.

We then went over to 43 Area for a static display of equipment used by the 11th Marines, the artillery regiment of the Marine Corps.

The M777A2 Howitzer had just returned from Afghanistan. It's called an Ultralight Field Howitzer, but there is nothing lightweight about something that can deliver five 155 mm rounds a minute for a maximum range of 24 miles.

Equally impressive were the Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS), a mortar weapon fire support system and the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), a light multiple rocket launcher mounted on a huge truck frame. How technology and equipment has changed from what was used on Iwo many veterans acknowledged.

Chow call sounded over the loud speakers so we headed over for lunch with the 11th Marines at their 43 Area Dining Facility.

After lunch, we were driven to the Air Field and met by Helicopter Squadron 268, the Red Dragons, a distinguished unit that served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Squadron shared their history, took us aboard their Chinook helicopter, demonstrated the various equipment they use and shared a few war stories.

And if that wasn't enough, we even stopped at the new "Big Box" PX and were given shopping privileges in the store.

"Big Blue" picked us up again on Friday for a windshield tour of the new Miramar National Cemetery just west of the Marine Corps Air Station. We then toured the Leatherneck Museum and lunched with the Marines at MCAS.

Back on the bus, we headed to downtown San Diego to tour the USS Midway Museum. Commissioned in 1945, the Midway is one of America's longest-serving aircraft carriers, probably best remembered for rescuing over 3,000 refugees in two days during the evacuation of Saigon in 1975.

Back at the hotel on both nights, Committee Treasurer Dan Zepeda held his annual free raffle giving away donated gifts of autographed books, bottles of wine, framed Iwo Jima photographs, t-shirts, caps, and even a K-Bar.

Reunions are about renewing friendships and remembering friends who have passed. On Saturday afternoon, gathered under tents and warming sunshine on the bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, veterans and their families remembered the fallen at the Sunset Memorial. The solemn service included a wreath-laying at the base of the Iwo Jima memorial monument and culminated with the 11th Marines 21-gun cannon salute and the 1st Marine Division Band Buglers hauntingly beautiful Taps.

*Continued on page 14*

# Death mask of Iwo flag-raiser laid to rest

*Cast of Iwo Jima icon's face handed over to Ariz. family 54 years after his death*

**By Dennis Wagner**

When Ira Hayes was alive, his image was captured in one of the most famous battle photographs ever taken — the World War II picture of Marines raising the flag over Iwo Jima.

Now, more than a half-century later, it turns out that Hayes' image also was captured in death — secretly cast in plaster while he lay in a Phoenix mortuary awaiting burial.

The heroic and tragic story of Hayes, a Pima Indian from Bapchule, Ariz., has been depicted in books, Hollywood films and popular music. The death mask, only recently discovered (a few years ago) by Hayes' family, adds one more chapter to the historic odyssey, a postscript with its own controversy and cultural questions.

Kenneth Hayes, (then) 78, (in December 2009) received his brother's final impression as a donation from the Gilbert Ortega Museum Gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz., where the mask had been on display for years, unbeknownst to relatives. Family members laid the object to rest on the Gila River Reservation where Hayes was born and died. The surviving relatives say the burial allows Hayes' spirit to go free into the next world.

The death mask itself represents something of a mystery, from its unauthorized creation to its public display.

## ***A celebrity emerges, then dies***

Amid the final battles of World War II, Cpl Ira Hamilton Hayes and five other Marines were frozen in time by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal as they raised the Stars and Stripes.

The 1945 picture, which came to symbolize American courage and patriotism, transformed a troubled Indian kid from Bapchule into an unwilling national celebrity. Hayes was one of only 27 members of a company of 250 to survive the battle on Mount Suribachi. In the aftermath, President Harry Truman

declared him a hero and ordered him back to the States to join a tour raising money through the sale of war bonds.

The 23-year-old hated being a center of attention and considered his fallen comrades to be the true heroes, according to biographer S.D. Nelson, who wrote, "Quiet Hero: The Ira Hayes Story." After an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Hayes returned to his home in the poverty-stricken Gila River Indian Community, seeking solitude and anonymity in a bottle.

Despite Hayes' misgivings, a mountain peak, a school and an American Legion post were named for him. He appeared as himself in a 1949 John Wayne film. More recently, he was portrayed in Clint Eastwood's 2006 movie, "Flags of Our Fathers," based on the book about Iwo Jima by James Bradley and Ron Powers.

Ten years after the war, at age 32, Hayes' body was found lying in a small creek. He had died of exposure after getting into a drunken fight during a poker game.

A ballad written by Peter LaFarge and popularized by Johnny Cash, among others, contains this melancholy refrain:

*Call him drunken Ira Hayes  
He won't answer anymore  
Not the whiskey drinkin' Indian  
Nor the Marine that went to war.*

According to a biography on the website of Arlington National Cemetery, where Hayes is buried, his memorial ceremony in Phoenix was Arizona's largest at the time.

But only a handful of people knew what occurred the night before in the mortuary.

## ***History of the mask unmasked***

A lump of linen is placed atop a glass display case at Gilbert Ortega Museum Gallery in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Larry Cook, Ira Hayes' grand nephew, unwraps the package to reveal the mask, emphasizing that no photographs are allowed. Cook's wife, Sharon, studies



the visage, comparing it to pictures of the Marine. “In Pima culture, when you pass on, everything you own is supposed to go with you,” she says. “They say because of this, Ira’s body was never sent to rest. It’s still lingering.”

Gilbert Ortega Jr. produced a one-page document explaining the history of the mask. It was written and notarized in 1986 by Shirley Nelson, now living in Yuma. It says a Phoenix artist named Hortense Johnson went to the funeral parlor and made a cast of Hayes’ face to preserve history. The next morning, Johnson visited the Nelsons home still splotted with plaster: “Hortense said Ira Hayes was to be buried that day and she just could not let this happen without making a death mask. It was her intent to make a bust of Ira.”

Johnson died of cancer without making a sculpture.

In a telephone interview, Nelson continues the story, explaining that she and her mother received the mask as a gift from Johnson’s grieving husband. “He was going to throw it out,” she recalls. “My mom and I were the only people who knew what it was, so he gave it to us.”

When Nelson’s mother died in 1959, Nelson inherited Ira’s image. There was always a sense of reverence, she adds, an appreciation of its importance. “We knew that it was history, and we didn’t want history lost. ... Ira lived in our house for many years.”

Nelson says the mask was kept in a cupboard because her Navajo foster child and his Native American friends were afraid of it. “They would come to the door and ask, ‘Is Ira put away?’” she recalls.

In the early 1980s, while living in Snowflake, Ariz., Nelson befriended a Navajo artist named Robert Yellowhair, who expressed an interest in making a sculpture of Hayes for the U.S. Marine Corps. Nelson says she gave the mask to Yellowhair, who picks up the story in a separate interview.

Yellowhair says he viewed the mask as a valuable collector’s item and never created a monument. Around 1995, he took the mask to Gilbert Ortega Sr., owner of Native American art and jewelry stores. Details of their arrangement are unclear. Yellowhair, who recalls giving the mask to Ortega on consignment, claims he is still its rightful owner, though he lacks documentation. Gilbert

Ortega Sr. died six years ago. Ortega Jr., now president of the galleries, says his father never took objects on consignment and the mask was always displayed with a sign declaring, “Not for Sale.”

Ortega Jr. says there were offers over the years, but his father rejected every one. “My dad always prided himself in the mask,” Ortega Jr. adds. “There’s no way to put a value on something like that. The value is from the heart more than money.”

### ***Family breaks mask, buries it***

In 1999, the story shifts back to the Gila reservation. According to tribal records, cultural-preservation officers learned of the death mask on display in Scottsdale and expressed concern but did nothing.

A decade elapsed before tribal officials raised the issue again, and this time, word reached family members. Larry Cook says he was taken aback when he visited the gallery. There is no such thing as a death mask in Pima culture, he adds, because key possessions should go with the deceased into the next world. Cook and his great uncle, Kenneth Hayes, approached Ortega Jr., who agreed to donate the mask to Ira’s descendants.

“I believe it still has the spirit in there, and that’s what led the family here,” Ortega Jr. explains. “I felt my dad would donate it, give it back to the family, so I decided to do the same.”

“Ira’s spirit is not totally rested,” Cook agrees. “We thank Mr. Ortega, too, for seeing in his heart to give the mask back.”

Family members returned to the Gila reservation a few hours later. According to Sharon Cook, they gathered for a private ceremony near the graves of Hayes’ mother and father. The mask was broken into bits and buried. Cook says they left no marker, no monument, so that a legend may rest undisturbed.

---

*Originally printed in The Arizona Republic on Dec. 2, 2009, and reprinted by The Marine Corps Times on Dec. 21, 2009. Submitted by Bob Mueller (D-2-28) to Spearhead for reprinting. Reprinted with permission © The Arizona Republic.*

# Chaplain Gittelsohn's Memorial Address

*Editor's Note: Due to an error in the last issue of Spearhead News, only the first page of this document was printed. Here it is in its entirety, enlarged to read it in its original form.*

Chap. Gittelsohn's  
Iwo Mem. Address  
3-21-45  
ORIGINAL

Delivered 21 March 1945  
on Iwo Jima, Hon'y *Walter H. Hanger*

MEMORIAL ADDRESS - FIFTH MARINE DIVISION  
CENTRE

UNR - attended this  
Memorial Service  
on Iwo Jima,  
3-21-45

CHAPLAIN HOWARD B. GITTELSON  
Maj. Gen. Hdq. Sta.,  
Fifth Marine Division  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

(APP)

This is perhaps the grimmest, and surely the holiest task we have faced since D-day. Here before us lie the bodies of comrades and friends. Men who until yesterday or last week laughed with us, joked with us, trained with us. Men who were on the same ship with us, and went near the sides with us as we prepared to hit the beaches of this island. Men who fought with us and fell with us. Somewhere in this plot of ground there may lie the man who could have discovered the cure for cancer. Under one of these Christian crosses, or beneath a Jewish Star of David, there may rest now a man who was destined to be a great prophet, -- to find the way, perhaps, for all to live in plenty, with poverty and hardship for none. Now they lie here silently in this sacred soil, and we gather to consecrate this earth in their memory.

It is not easy to do so. Some of us have buried our closest friends here. We saw these men killed before our very eyes. Any one of us might have died in their places. Indeed, some of us are alive and breathing at this very moment only because men who lie here beneath us had the courage and strength to give their lives for ours. To speak in memory of such men as these is not easy. Of them too can it be said with utter truth: "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here. It can never forget what they did here."

No, our poor power of speech can add nothing to what these men and the other dead of our Division who are not here have already done. All that we even hope to do is follow their example. To show the same selfless courage in peace that they did in war. To swear that by the grace of God and the stubborn strength and power of human will, their sons and ours shall never suffer these pains again. These men have done their job well. They have paid the ghastly price of freedom. If that freedom be once again lost, as it was after the last war, the unforgivable blame will be ours, not theirs. So it is we the living who are here to be dedicated and consecrated.

†  
We dedicate ourselves, first, to live together in peace the way they fought and are buried in this war. Here lie men who loved America because their ancestors generations ago helped in her founding, and other men who loved her with equal passion because they themselves or their own fathers escaped from oppression to her blessed shores. Here lie officers and men, negroes and whites, rich men and poor, --together. Here are Protestants, Catholics and Jews, --together. Here no man prefers another because of his faith or despises him because of his color. Here there are no quotas of how many from each group are admitted or allowed. Among these men there is no discrimination. No prejudice. No hatred. Theirs is the highest and purest democracy.

MEMORIAL ADDRESS - FIFTH MARINE DIVISION COMBATANT (Cont'd)

Any man among us the living who fails to understand that will thereby betray those who lie here dead. Whoever of us lifts his hand in hate against a brother, or thinks himself superior to those who happen to be in the minority, covets of this ceremony and of the bloody sacrifice its commemoration, an empty, hollow mockery. To this, then, as our solemn, sacred duty, do we the living now dedicate ourselves--to the right of Protestants, Catholics and Jews, of white men and negroes alike, to enjoy the democracy for which all of them have here paid the price.

To one thing more do we consecrate ourselves in memory of those who sleep beneath these crosses and stars. We shall not foolishly suppose, as did the last generation of Americans' fighting men, that victory on the battlefield will automatically guarantee the triumph of democracy at home. This war, with all its frightful heartache and suffering, is but the beginning of our generation's struggle for democracy. When the last battle has been won, there will be those at home, as there were last time, who will want us to turn our backs to selfish legislation on the rest of organized humanity, and thus to sabotage the very peace for which we fight. We promise you who lie here: we will not do that! We will join hands with Britain, China, Russia in peace, even as we have in war, to build the kind of world for which you died.

When the last shot has been fired, there will still be those whose eyes are turned backward, not forward, who will be satisfied with these wide expanses of poverty and wealth in which the seeds of another war can breed. We promise you, our departed comrades! this too we will not permit. This war has been fought by the common man; its fruits of peace must be enjoyed by the common man! We promise, by all that is sacred and holy, that your sons the sons of miners and millers, the sons of farmers and workers, will inherit from your death the right to a living that is decent and secure.

When the final cross has been placed in the last cemetery, once again there will be those to whom profit is more important than peace, who will insist with the voice of sweet reasonableness and agreement that it is better to trade with the enemies of mankind than, by crushing them, to lose their profit. To you who sleep here silently, we give our promise: we will not listen! We will not forget that some of you were burnt with oil that came from American wells, that many of you were killed by shells fashioned from American steel. We promise that when men again can seek profit at your expense, we shall remember how you looked when we placed you reverently, lovingly, in the ground.

Thus do we memorialize those who, having ceased living with us, now live within us. Thus do we consecrate ourselves the living to carry on the struggle they began. Too much blood has gone into this soil for us to let it lie barren. Too much pain and heartache have fertilized the earth on which we stand. We here solemnly swear: this shall not be in vain! Out of this, and from the suffering and sorrow of those who mourn this, will come--we promise--the birth of a new freedom for the sons of men everywhere.

AMC.

**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**  
**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**AUGUST 29, 2012**  
**SILVER LEGACY HOTEL, RENO, NV**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Ivan Hammond for President Tom Kalus. Mr. Hammond led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. A prayer and a poem were then read.

**OFFICER REPORT & OLD BUSINESS**

Minutes were read by Tony De Santis: a lengthy and robust discussion followed with several people speaking at once.

- Ray Elliott noted that these minutes were not the same as the ones printed in the *Spearhead*.
- A question was raised regarding the location of the 2013 reunion—San Diego or Hawaii. Some members noted they thought the vote taken at the Branson meeting was strictly exploratory. Several other members stated they recalled the voting at that time for San Diego was the selection of the 2013 reunion site. Bill Behana had already begun coordinating the 2013 reunion in San Diego based on the vote at that meeting.
- The Parliamentarian stopped the conversation and calls for votes regarding the 2013 reunion site until a vote was taken on the acceptance of the minutes. Warren Musch motioned that minutes be accepted; Bob Fletcher seconded that motion. The vote to accept was 23 yes; 15 no.

Incoming President Bill Behana was not present due to an emergency. Penny Pauletto shared that the hotel was the Handlery Hotel in Hotel Circle, San Diego, with a cost approximately \$109+tax per night. Mr. Behana was to post more details in the upcoming *Spearhead*.

The Treasurer's Report given by Tony De Santis:

- The bank account had a balance of \$37,606
- Jim Shriver had resigned as the Association's Treasurer.
- It was noted that the annual dues line on the reunion registration was not included this year.
- In May, Ted Overgard sent the Association's gold (30 troy ounces of gold bullion) to Tony. Mr. De Santis had placed the gold in his office safe. When asked what should happen to the gold; a lively and robust conversation with many members talking at once. The Parliamentarian stated nothing could move forward until the Treasurer's Report is voted on.
- Warren Musch moved to accept the report; Bob Fletcher seconded the motion. A show of hands was made with the majority-voting yes and one no vote. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.
- Another lively discussion occurred after Warren Musch provided a brief history of the safekeeping of the gold and who had access to it.
- The Board of Trustees accepted responsibility for handling all decision regarding the safekeeping and the selling of the gold.
- A motion was made by Penny Pauletto to move the gold to Safe Deposit Box and to see to its sale, Mary Huffhines seconded the motion. All were in favor (unanimous). Motion passed.
- Association member, Ted Dougherty of Reseda, Calif., offered to assist with the disposition of the gold. [Secretary's note, Mr. Dougherty offer however did not include a proposal for moving forward. When reached regarding his offer, he was no longer able to assist the Association. Communications with Mr. Dougherty were limited as he only provided an address for mail delivery; other contacts such as a phone number, email address, etc. were not provided.]

Ralph Simoneau, chairman provided a status report on the by-laws. Mr. Simoneau explained that incorrect by-laws were included in the registration packet. He noted it was not practical to move forward with a vote at this time. More research and adjustments needed to be made then published for all members to have a chance to read and decide for a vote. Mr. Simoneau completed extensive research of by-laws from several organizations and is focusing mainly on Officers duties and membership designation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Warren Musch announced he would look into hosting 2014 in Springfield, Illinois, no promises just "exploratory."
- It was suggested a parliamentarian to be present at all future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. with no vote being taken.

## Fifth Marine Division Association

### Statement of Income and Expense Year ended December 31,

	2012	2011	Change
<b>INCOME</b>			
Dues	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ (430.00)
General	430.00	1,109.00	(679.00)
Gain on sale of investment	-	7,760.00	(7,760.00)
Interest	-	-	-
Advertising	170.00	-	170.00
Reunion Deposit	-	1,782.47	(1,782.47)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,770.00</b>	<b>13,251.47</b>	<b>(10,481.47)</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Administrative Services	6,682.00	9,313.83	(2,631.83)
Administrative Services:Miscellaneous	-	26.36	(26.36)
Office Expenses	587.26	829.76	(242.50)
Production & Distribution	9,536.87	10,644.72	(1,107.85)
Reunion Advances	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
<b>Total operating expense</b>	<b>18,806.13</b>	<b>20,814.67</b>	<b>(2,008.54)</b>
 <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	 <b>\$ (16,036.13)</b>	 <b>\$ (7,563.20)</b>	 <b>\$ (12,490.01)</b>

### Statement of Accounts

	31-Dec-12	31-Dec-11	Change Inc/(Dec)
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Bank Account	\$ 33,084.95	\$ 49,121.08	\$ (16,036.13)
Investment--			
Gold in deposit, at cost			
Market value \$50.310.00 at			
December 31, 2012 and \$46,974.00 at			
December 31, 2011	36,600.00	36,600.00	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 69,684.95</b>	<b>\$ 85,721.08</b>	<b>\$ (16,036.13)</b>
<b>LIABILITES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b>\$ 69,684.95</b>	<b>\$ 85,721.08</b>	<b>\$ (16,036.13)</b>

## WELCOME ABOARD

### NEW MEMBERS

HYDE-WATSON, MARY JIMMIE [ASSOCIATE]  
STURTEVANT, DENNIS [H-3-26]

### NEW LIFE MEMBER

BARNNETT, DENNIS [H-2-26]

### LIFE MEMBERS

DEVEREAUX, MAX [B-5thPION]  
LEE, HORACE [5thJASCO]  
OPTIZ, DONALD [E-2-26]  
STEWART, EDWARD [C-MED]



## WEST COAST REUNION

Continued from page 7

Social hour in the “Iron Mike” Room began after the Memorial, but it wasn’t long before the banquet doors opened as the 1st Marine Division Band Ensemble played. Jerry Blandford, MSgt, USMC (Ret.) again served as Master of Ceremonies and led the March on the Colors. Chaplain Jim Fry, Lt (ChC) USN (Ret.) delivered the invocation.

BrigGen Vincent Coglianesse had fulfilled his promise and welcomed the Iwo Jima veterans and their families. Banquet Chairman Bill Behana, MSgt USMC (Ret.) entertained us with his Commemorative Remarks, even having the 415 guests rise and sing the Marine Corps Hymn.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and decades-long service of Committee Chairman and Iwo Jima veteran, Joe Garza. Joe has been the guiding force behind the reunions as well as the drive for the Iwo Jima monument that was erected on the westerly bluff on Feb. 20, 1999. Banquet Chairman Behana presented Joe with a bronze sculpture of the Iwo Jima flag raising monument.

In remembrance of those no longer with us, Bob Mueller delivered the Empty Chair tribute. The reverential silence continued as the stage drapes opened to reveal the Iwo Jima Flag Raising Tableau presented by the Camp Pendleton Historical Company.

The highlight of the evening came when the Iwo veterans were invited to the front for a group photo. It took a little time to get the 54 men staged but the young Marine photographer standing atop a 16-foot ladder didn’t seem to mind. After the photo, veterans were presented with a Camp Pendleton cap and a copy of the photograph courtesy of BrigGen Coglianesse.

Soon it was time to serve the ceremonial cake. Blandford honored the Marine Corps tradition by inviting the youngest Marine, 19-year-old PFC King, to cut a slice and present it to the oldest Marine, 95-year old SgtMaj Harris Chuck, USMC (Ret.).

The reunion went by far too fast. We accomplished the mission and are looking forward to honoring and remembering the veterans of Iwo Jima at next year’s 69th anniversary reunion.

# MILITARY

HISTORICAL TOURS, INC.

**YOU SERVED WITH THE BEST, TOUR WITH THE BEST!**

### 2013/14 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

*Fun Places, Fun People travel to the battlefields with MHT!*













- ★ 2 – 11 Aug Guadalcanal Turning the Tide Pacific WWII
- 24 Aug – 6 Sep Vietnam “Chu Lai to the DMZ”
- 24 Aug – 7 Sep Vietnam I-II-III-IV Corps “Delta to the DMZ”
- 7 – 18 Sep 70<sup>th</sup> Anniv Invasion of Italy “Op Avalanche”
- 14 – 27 Oct “U.S. Military in China 1835-1949” Beijing – Tientsin – Xian – Tsingtao – Shanghai
- ★ 8 – 13 Nov Bermuda Golf Getaway USMC Birthday Dinner & Veterans Remembrance Day Parade
- 26 Jan – 4 Feb ‘14 World War II in the Philippines
- 15 – 28 Feb ‘14 Tet Offensive & Battle of Hue City
- ★ 14 – 21 Mar ‘14 69th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor—Guam & Charter Iwo Flight
- 28 Mar – 5 Apr ‘14 50th Anniv of the Vietnam War—1964
- 13 – 25 ‘14 Apr Vietnam I Corps
- 19 – 27 Apr ‘14 Turkey Gallipoli Campaign, ANZAC Day, Istanbul & Troy
- 19 Apr – 2 May ‘14 Vietnam “Saigon to the DMZ”

13198 Centerpointe Way,  
Ste 202 Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285  
800-722-9501 \* [www.miltours.com](http://www.miltours.com)  
[mhtours@miltours.com](mailto:mhtours@miltours.com)

Registration Form

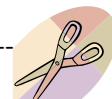
**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 64<sup>TH</sup> REUNION**

**MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER – FRIDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER, 2013**

HOTEL INFO:  
EARLY RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED  
**HANDLERY HOTEL AND RESORT**  
\$109.00 PER NIGHT  
950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108  
619-298-0511 (Toll Free: 1-800-676-6567)  
Group Title: Fifth Marine Reunion

- Send a check or money order payable to: FIFTH MARINE DIVISION REUNION  
c/o Bill Behana, M/Sgt USMC Ret  
2131 Paseo Grande  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
For more information: 619-444-9181
- Phone orders and credit card orders will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation.
- All registration forms & payments must be received by mail on or before 12 August, 2013.
  - After that, registration will be accepted on a space-available basis only.
- We suggest that you make a copy of your completed form prior to mailing.
- Cancellation must be received no later than 26 August, 2013.
- The Hospitality Room will be “No Host.” Sodas will be \$1.00 and beer/wine will be \$2.00.
  - Hard liquor drinks are available at the nice bar nearby.
- General schedule for the Reunion:
  - Monday, September 9: Hospitality Room: Registration/Social Hour 3:00-10:00 PM
  - Tuesday, September 10: Continental Breakfast, Midway Tour (Lunch on own aboard ship.)
  - Wednesday, September 11: Continental Breakfast, MCAS Miramar Air Museum Tour (Lunch in Chow Hall)
  - Thursday, September 12: Continental Breakfast, Memorial Service, Business Meeting & Lunch
  - Friday, September 13: Continental Breakfast, Open Day, Silent Auction in Hospitality Room, Banquet/Dance PM
  - Saturday, September 14: Check out and Departure
- TOUR INFORMATION: Tours will be available if adequate numbers pre-register.

**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 64<sup>TH</sup> REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**



NAME/S \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION:	\$ 5.00	Number of people: _____	REGISTRATION TOTAL	\$ _____
USS MIDWAY TOUR:	\$35.00	Number of people: _____	USS MIDWAY TOUR TOTAL	\$ _____
MIRAMAR TOUR:	\$30.00	Number of people: _____	MIRAMAR TOUR TOTAL	\$ _____
FRIDAY BANQUET:	\$40.00	# Apricot Pork Loin: _____ #Chicken Picata: _____	BANQUET TOTAL:	\$ _____

Make check out to FIFTH MARINE DIVISION REUNION and mail to Bill Behana.

**GRAND TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

