



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION
of the
5TH MARINE
DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

**63RD ANNUAL REUNION - RENO, NEVADA
AUGUST 26 -31, 2012
SILVER LEGACY RESORT CASINO**

Marine honored for heroism on Khe Sanh dies

By John Butler

Col William H. Dabney, USMC, an extraordinary and outstanding Marine combat leader who commanded India 3/26 and the attached Mike company for 77 days on Hill 881 South during the siege of the Khe Sanh combat base, passed away after a long illness on Feb 15 at his home in Lexington, Va.

Col Dabney was married to Virginia Puller Dabney, daughter of legendary General Lewis B. Puller. The accompanying photo was taken on the occasion of his belated Navy Cross award presentation at the Virginia Military Institute in 2005. Their 50-year marriage produced four children, two of whom predeceased Col Dabney. Virginia lovingly cared for her husband at their Lexington, Va., home for the long period of his failing health.

Then Capt Dabney's Marines held on to Hill 881 South against every thing General Giap's NVA could throw at them. The key to taking the combat base at Khe



Col Bill H. Dabney and his wife, Virginia, in 2005.

Sanh was Hill 881 South, and against great odds and physical hardships, Dabney's Marines prevailed.

Capt Dabney's belated Navy Cross was awarded 43 years later in 2005 at VMI with 37 of Dabney's Marines in attendance. The delay was caused when the original written recommendation was lost aboard an aircraft that crashed and burned when departing Khe Sanh.

Navy Cross Citation

For extraordinary heroism while serving as Commanding Officer of two heavily reinforced rifle companies of the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines, in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from 21 January to 14 April 1968.

During the entire period, Colonel (then Captain) Dabney's force stubbornly defended Hill 881S, a regimental outpost vital to the defense of the Khe Sanh Combat Base. Following his bold spoiling attack on 20 January

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SPEARHEAD NEWS

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

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available to view at www.talesspress.com**

2011 Reunion Roundup

By Thomas Kalus
President

The 62nd annual reunion is behind us and the comments at Branson and the cards and phone calls here at home stating, "We sure had a good time," "It was a lot of fun," "We made many new friends" and "It was the best convention we have had in a long time" were appreciated. Thank you for all your work and efforts, and thanks to each of you for your kind remarks.

While returning home, an earlier eye operation commenced to give me some worrisome problems and I was unable to do the post-reunion report. However, Ray Elliott put together an outstanding report in the Fall/Winter 2012 *Spearhead News* on the events at Branson. I must thank Ray for his dedication and work. I might add, however, that the Business Meeting minutes on page 9 have a couple of errors that will be addressed at, and corrected during a like meeting at the next reunion. What appears to have happened was the discussions at the ADHPC Trustee meeting, the Business Meeting and other discussions were all included as a part of the Business Meeting.

Branson is truly a wonderful reunion site, and given our low participation, it would be worth considering as a site some two or three years from now. The air travel and shuttle service problem to and from Springfield/Branson could, I believe, be solved by establishing a couple of flight arrival windows and arranging for one of the many shuttle services to provide transportation. The Grand Plaza Hotel is centrally located with a hot complimentary breakfast, an accommodating, friendly staff and comfortable rooms. It would be hard to find a better site.

Many of you participated in the TV interview, "Out In Front." The results will appear on TV later this summer. I will keep trying to get the date and time. Once that is known, I will advise Ray Elliott and ask him to put it on his website.

The T-shirts in the photo of Ann-Margaret are part of our attempt to make a few dollars for the General Fund. We personally funded the cost of the T-shirts and shipping. The shirts didn't sell as well as expected, so Janet and I will suffer the loss. We still have a number of the shirts available for \$20 each that includes shipping. All colors and sizes are available – blue and gray for the men, white and purple for the ladies. Call 808-486-5004.

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



Commandant pledges support to continue Iwo Jima legacy

When Gen James F. Amos was preparing for his new assignment as the 35th commandant of the Marine Corps, he sought the advice of some past commandants, including Gen Carl Mundy Jr.

“I’m going to give you one piece of advice that is the most important that anybody will give you,” Mundy told him. “As commandant of the Marine Corps, you are responsible — you are solely responsible — for the spiritual well being of the United States Marine Corps. If you fail in that, you have failed as the 35th commandant.”

Gen Amos shared this story last month with Iwo Jima veterans, families and friends at the 67th Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium commemoration at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va.

At the time, Amos told Mundy that he was raised Catholic and had attended other churches, so “surely I’m well qualified to grab the spiritual reins.”

“He could see the look on my face,” Amos said. “He knew I was shooting well below the 10-ring on the target.”

“I’m not talking about religion,” Mundy told him and then pointed to his heart. “I’m talking about what’s in here. I’m talking about the spirit of the United States Marine Corps. I’m talking about what makes us different. I’m talking about who we are. And what we represent. And what we do for our country. And if you ever lose that, you will have failed as the 35th commandant of the Marine Corps.”

Commandant Amos paused briefly before his audience.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” he then said, “that’s why we’re here today. This is about that sense of spirit that runs inside of us that causes us to be Marines. It was imparted into us in the hills of Quantico. It was imparted into us on the parade decks of Parris Island and San Diego. It is who we are and why we are different. ... We march to a different drum. We have a difference sense of willingness to sacrifice. We have an enormous capacity for faithfulness and fidelity. That’s why that motto is absolutely critical to who we are.”

The commandant then proceeded to characterize the significance of Iwo Jima. He spoke about the courage of the 70,000 Marines, sailors, Coast Guardsmen and soldiers who participated in the battle. And he mentioned the 22,000 Japanese soldiers, commanded by Gen Tadamichi Kuribayashi, who, for the first and only time in Marine Corps history, caused more casualties on the Marine side than on the enemy side.

The underlying message was that even amidst those imposing numbers wrought on the invading Marines by the deeply entrenched Japanese, it was the *esprit de corps* of the Marines that led to victory, with the Japanese losing all but a few.

And to help perpetuate its legacy through such activities as the annual “Reunion of Honor” on Iwo Jima, Gen Amos told the group — especially Bonnie Arnold Haynes, widow of Iwo Jima veteran and founder of the Iwo Jima Veterans of America MajGen Fred Haynes — that “As long as I’m commandant, we will support the annual trip to Iwo Jima.”

Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, who was in attendance, as well, has also pledged Japan’s continued support of the annual visit to Iwo Jima.

“Those of you who can’t make it this year will gather in spirit,” Gen Amos said, and then challenged his audience: “But this goes back to what Gen Mundy told me. If we ever lose that spirit — and I’ve included you now, this is more than just the responsibility of the 35th commandant — if you are a junior, a grandson, a granddaughter, a great-grandson or great-granddaughter — if *you* ever lose that spirit, then surely our Corps will cease to exist.”



Gen James F. Amos, 35th commandant of the Marine Corps, greets Bonnie Haynes, widow of MajGen Fred Haynes, at the Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium in February. (Photo courtesy of Headquarters Marine Corps)

Need to 'get the word out' to potential members

Of many Marine Corps unit patches, my 5th Marine Division patch holds the place of honor. My point being that, not only did the entire Division exist between 1966-1970, but it was designated as "5th Marine Division (-) Rein." The (-) reflected the units already "permanently" assigned to Vietnam. Many do not realize that when 26th Marines deployed in 1966, they deployed as RLT 26. They deployed with 1/13 and elements of all the divisional combat, combat support and combat service support units of the Division.

When 27th Marines deployed for seven months during the Tet Counter Offensive, they deployed as RLT 27, with 2/13, as well as all supporting units. K/4/13 deployed to Vietnam in 1967. My unit was H&S Company, 5th Shore Party Battalion (-) Rein. All the letter companies were deployed. The (-) reflected Alpha Company, which had gone to Vietnam as part of RLT 26. The Special Landing Force Shore Party element was designated as "Bravo Co, 3rd Shore Party Battalion (-) Rein., 5th Marine Division (-) Rein., thus the "rein" designation. If you run the numbers, I believe that more units of the 5th Marine Division served in Vietnam than didn't.

In any event, for four years, the entire Division (reinforced) existed during the Vietnam War. I, for one, am very proud of my service in the 5th Marine Division, and readily joined the Association when I discovered it existed. I think the trick is to "get the word out" to that pool of potential members that served in the Division, or a Division unit attached to another Division, during that four-year period.

– Art Curley

Communications Platoon

H&S Co. and "C" Co., 5th Shore Party Bn. (-) Rein.

"B" Co., 3rd Shore Party Bn., (-) Rein.

5th Marine Division (-) Rein.

More families seeking information on loved ones who served

My grandfather, Paul L. Lofton, fought at Iwo Jima. I never met him as he died before I was born. I would like any info possible that might help me in my search for our family's hero. I don't know what questions to ask or even how to get started in my search.

Any help at all would be greatly appreciated. Please send the info on joining the group to keep the legacy alive.

– Zachery Robinson

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Moselle, MS 39459

zacheryrbnsn@yahoo.com

***Editor's Note:** More and more letters and emails are coming in looking for information about fathers and grandfathers of Iwo Jima and other World War II Marines and how to keep the legacy alive. Joining the Fifth Marine Division Association (see application on back page), the Iwo Jima Association of America (P.O. Box 680, Quantico, VA 22134; email Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org or visit www.IwoJimaAssociation.org) or join any one of the numerous organizations and attend the reunions. Networking and meeting other children and veterans is the best way.*

Son expresses gratitude upon his father's passing

Thank you, and please pass along my thanks to Dave Severence and his family. Before my dad passed, he had declined with severe dementia. I owe a dept of gratitude to Mr. Severence [when] he helped coordinate with me and my dad at the time of my Marine Corps Scholarship when I went to college at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. I will let my family know that my [dad's name] will be in [this] issue. My dad is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, Calif., along with his former commander, Victor Krulak, whom my dad highly respected and admired when they were involved at Choiseul in the Solomon Islands. I wanted to let you know this in case any inquiries are made to you as to my dad's resting place.

My father, Roy P. Homerding Sr. (HQ/1/27) passed away Jan. 2, 2012. He served initially in the 2nd Paramarines in 1942 and served in the Solomons campaign on Choiseul until they were merged into the 5th Marine Division.

I know he had been a member of their association of survivors (The Opening Shock), as well, until I believe they disbanded. He served until 1946 when he was honorably discharged.

He is survived by my mom, Verna Homerding; my sisters, Carol, Susan, Elizabeth and Verna; my brother, Roy Jr., and myself. My dad was very honored to have served his country as a Marine when duty called. Semper Fi.

– Timothy Homerding
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

What units were given citations?

As I was reading the (Fall/Winter 2011-12) *Spearhead News*, I saw on page 11 the unit citations that were given to the units in Vietnam. As a Marine Engineer, I was attached to the 26th and 27th Marines while in Vietnam. How may I find out what units were given the citations?

– Charles Luhan Jr.
Chicago, IL

Editor's Note: See www.26thmarines.org/unitawards.html for Unit citations and awards for the 26th Marines in Vietnam. Search "27th" for the same information, although I found nothing solely for the regiment.

'Proud USMC brat' looks to join Association

My father-in-law, Daniel E. Smith, who has since passed away, was with the 5th Marines, 3rd Battalion, 31st Replacement Draft at Iwo Jima. My husband and I would very much like to become members and begin receiving your *Spearhead* newsletter and participate in group events.

We both live in Maryland and both currently work for DoD. My father was also a Marine, a two-time Vietnam veteran, but he passed away at the age of 66 in 2007. Yes, I am a proud USMC brat.

We [attended] the event you mentioned that was slated for Arlington, Va., in February, and we are also very interested in the Reno reunion, as well.

– Donna Conti and Tom Smith
gypsyqueen77@aol.com

USMC combat correspondents group seeks to create memorial

The USMC Combat Correspondents Association Foundation is seeking to memorialize our founder, BrigGen Robert L. Denig Sr., his "Demons" who

pioneered the concept of combat reporting in the early days of World War II, and all others who have told and continue to tell the Marine Corps story.

We have received permission from the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, Va., to place a memorial along the Semper Fidelis Park trail. [The park] is in the area surrounding the Chapel, which overlooks the museum proper. Our proposed site is shown on our website at www.usmccca.org/archives/5824.

The price for this memorial is approximately \$25,000, which includes future upkeep. The USMCCCA Foundation, which is spearheading this effort, cannot fund the entire amount. For this reason, we are asking all members to help us.

For a contribution of \$750 or more, you will be entitled to an engraved brick to be placed around the memorial. We are placing no limit on contributions. We ask only that you give what you can so that we can bring this memorial to fruition. As the memorial location allows 80 bricks to surround it, we are selling these for \$300. Each brick carries three lines of 20 characters each. When you make a donation of \$300 or more, a form will be sent to you for your suggested inscription.

Our website contains complete information on how you can help us in our quest for funding: www.usmccca.org. You may also pay by check or money order. These should be sent to CCHQ, 110 Fox Court, Wildwood, FL 34785.

Should you care to spread your contribution over a three-year period, you may contact our CC Headquarters and arrange that type of payment. Email usmccca@cfl.rr.com, or call Executive Director Jack Paxton at 352-748-4698.

We appreciate your consideration in this venture.

– Victoria Turney, President
USMCCCA Foundation

11th Eng Battalion seeks those who served in Vietnam

The 11th Engineer Battalion, a Marine national association, is looking for Marines and Navy Corpsmen who served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1970. The battalion officers are in the planning stages for our next reunion. Please contact Charles Luhan Jr., battalion locator, at CL11enrbn@sbcglobal.net or call 773-585-9629.

– Charles Luhan Jr.
Chicago, IL

KHE SANH MARINE REMEMBERED

Continued from page 1

1968, shattering a much larger North Vietnamese Army (NVA) force deploying to attack Hill 881S, Colonel Dabney's force was surrounded and cut off from all outside ground supply for the entire 77-day Siege of Khe Sanh. Enemy snipers, machine guns, artillery, and 120-millimeter mortars responded to any daylight movement on his position. In spite of deep entrenchments, his total casualties during the siege were close to 100 percent. Helicopters were his only source of resupply, and each such mission brought down a cauldron of fire on his landing zones. On numerous occasions Colonel Dabney raced into the landing zone under heavy hostile fire to direct debarkation of personnel and to carry wounded Marines to evacuation helicopters. The extreme difficulty of resupply resulted in conditions of hardship and deprivation seldom experienced by American forces. Nevertheless, Colonel Dabney's indomitable spirit was truly an inspiration to his troops. He organized his defenses with masterful skill and his preplanned fires shattered every enemy probe on his positions. He also devised an early-warning system whereby NVA artillery and rocket firings from the west were immediately reported by lookouts to the Khe Sanh Combat Base, giving exposed personnel a few life-saving seconds to take cover, saving countless lives, and facilitating the targeting of enemy firing positions. Colonel Dabney repeatedly set an incredible example of calm courage under fire, gallantly exposing himself at the center of every action without concern for his own safety. Colonel Dabney contributed decisively to ultimate victory in the Battle of Khe Sanh, which ranks among the most heroic stands of any American force in history.

By his valiant combat leadership, exceptional bravery, and selfless devotion to duty, Colonel Dabney reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

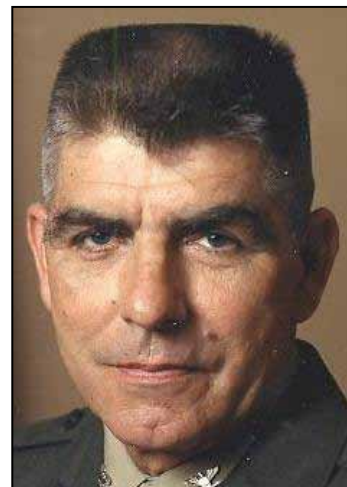
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From August 1962 to June 1963, I was a platoon leader in then-1st Lt Bill Dabney's F/2/8. It was the very best time of the five years I served on active duty in the US Marine Corps. I knew no skipper of his equal, and when I heard of his deeds on 881 South I was not surprised.



**Above: Capt William "Bill" Dabney on Hill 881 South during the siege of Khe Sanh when he commanded F/3/26 and the attached Mike Company for 77 days. (Dave Powell photo)**

**Right: Col Bill Dabney in 2005**



In August of last year, following my 50th Basic School reunion at Quantico with a handful of fellow Marine classmates, I trekked to Lexington in the foothills of the Shenandoah Valley to see my old company commander.

Allowed 30 minutes by his gracious and loving wife, Virginia, I shared a brief, memorable visit with Col Dabney, reminiscing about the days in F/2/8. Recalling his vigorous health and strength from those days, it was sad seeing my old skipper taking oxygen and struggle for breath. However, he became the Bill Dabney I remembered. He grew animated when we talked and recalled the names and antics of those Marines in F/2/8.

Col Dabney was a Marine combat leader for the ages. He was also an outstanding person by any measure.

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*Col Dabney's service with the 26th Marines in Vietnam continued the outstanding service of those who served in the 26th on Iwo Jima. It is our hope that Marines who served with him and with the 26th and 27th Marines in Vietnam continue to join the Fifth Marine Division Association and keep the legacy alive. To learn more about the colonel: [www.mca-marines.org/gazette/farewell-warrior-col-william-h-dabney-usmc-ret](http://www.mca-marines.org/gazette/farewell-warrior-col-william-h-dabney-usmc-ret)*



## FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")



BRENNAN, William **D-2-28** 03/14/10

BUNCH, Hershell **M-4-13** 03/22/11

DE PAEMELAERE, Fran **G-3-27** 09/04/11

HOMERDING Sr., Roy P. **HQ-2-27** 01/02/12

MONTGOMERY, Martha **MM** 11/28/11

NORWACKI, George T. **E-2-27** 02/09/12

PELL, Robert V. **I-3-28** 08/30/11

REDDY, James **M-4-13** 02/11

RIOS, Fermin **D-2-28** 06/27/11

WEBB, Chester **M-4-13** 06/26/10



**Editor's Note:** I received a call from June Haigh (1/3/28) from Ennis, MT, regarding the reported Final Muster of his buddy, Robert Garrett. He was in 1/3/28, but the information received and printed was inaccurate. "I guess it's not a big deal," June said, "but we always thought it was important." Which it is. One's outfit is something of pride, and Mr. Garrett served with 1/3/28 on Iwo Jima. My apologies for not being more careful in editing. Please send Final Muster notices (including name, unit and date of death) to Spearhead Editor at [talespress@talespress.com](mailto:talespress@talespress.com).

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

JOHNSON, William P. **B-1-27**  
Life Member

CONTI, Donna **ASSOC**

MASON, Warren **ASSOC**

SMITH, Tom **ASSOC**

ZACCAREILLI, Joseph **ASSOC**

## Secretary's Corner

Thank you for the well wishes as I take on the secretary role for the Association. Since the last *Spearhead*, I have received many notes, along with dues payments and address changes. I have also received a few calls. Those calls are a welcomed interruption from work. I get to take a few minutes out of my workday and talk about the 5th and hear some great stories. Along the way, I have had the opportunity to speak with Michael Kessler of the Young Marines. He sends along his well wishes to the members of the Fifth Marine Division Association.

I want to thank James Shriver, our treasurer, for his assistance and guidance as I take on the secretary role. Jim has not been able to attend the reunions, but he does attend to the business of the Association with great care. Also, Ray Elliott, our *Spearhead* editor does get a big thank you. In many of my communications, I hear how important the *Spearhead* is to our members and their families. When receiving Final Muster notices, I often get requests for the *Spearhead* with the notice. The *Spearhead* is an important connection that Ray ensures is there for our Association.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in August. And for those of you who haven't paid your 2012 dues yet, please get those to me.

– Tony Di Santis  
Secretary



### Popular Iwo Jima Pins Available

At the Houston Reunion in 2009, then-Association President Ivan Hammond had secured a pin with the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi that proved to be very popular. Those pins and others are available from Hoover's Mfg. Co. in Peru, IL. Phone: 800-223-1159 or order online at [www.hmchonors.com](http://www.hmchonors.com)



# Remembrance

By Gail Chatfield

“Iwo Jima was the most savage and the most costly battle in the history of the Marine Corps,” Lt Gen Holland M. Smith acknowledged. When the battle ended, 6,821 Americans had been killed and 19,000 wounded.

At the base of Mt. Suribachi, a little south of Motoyama Airfield No. 1, thousands of young men lay buried in the cemeteries of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Division. Row upon row of white crosses and stars were seen by the troops as they regrouped to leave the island.

Joe Rosenthal’s photograph of the raising of the American flag on Mt. Suribachi provided the image of that horrible battle, but the words of Lt Roland Gittelsohn, CHC, USNR, furnished its meaning. Lt Gittelsohn was the first Jewish rabbi assigned to the Marine Corps and he, like his fellow chaplains, ministered to all faiths in combat. The rabbi knew the horrors of war and the toll it took on the men.

At the 4th Marine Division Cemetery dedication on March 21, 1945, Division Chaplain Warren Cuthriell asked Rabbi Gittelsohn to deliver the memorial sermon at a combine Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish service. Chaplain Cuthriell wanted a single, nondenominational ceremony to honor the men of different races and religions united as Marines. It was not to be; the Protestant and Catholic chaplains objected to the idea of a combined service and a rabbi preaching over mostly Christian graves.

Rabbi Gittelsohn gave the eulogy he originally wrote for that ceremony at a separate Jewish service. Several Protestant chaplains, angered at the attitudes of their colleagues, attended the service. Unknown to the rabbi, thousands of copies of the sermon were

circulated among the troops who then sent them home for the families to read. Gittelsohn’s eulogy appeared in hometown newspapers and coverage spread even further when excerpts were published in Time magazine. The entire sermon was later inserted into the Congressional Record.

Rabbi Gittelsohn’s words remain powerful and timeless. Here is an excerpt:

“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 ships with us, and went over the sides with us as we prepared to hit the beaches of this island. Men who fought with us and feared 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, it can be said with utter truth: ‘The world will little note or long remember what we say here. It





**Green Beach, with Mount Suribachi in the background, more than 65 years after the 28th Marines stormed ashore here on Feb. 19, 1945, looks peaceful with little evidence of the carnage that took place here. Just over the berm and north along the beaches and inland were the division cemeteries where Marines killed on the island lay buried for several years until their remains were removed for burial in cemeteries in their hometowns back in the United States or at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl, Honolulu. Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn delivered his famous eulogy nearby, and the annual "Reunion of Honor" is held here today. (Photo submitted by Bruce Carter, Charlotte, NC, taken on a trip to Iwo Jima with Military Historical Tours.)**

can never forget what they did here.’

“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. AMEN”

The cemeteries are no longer on Iwo Jima. The return of the American dead buried in foreign cemeteries was provided for by Congress in 1947. Those buried on Iwo Jima were either re-interred at the National

Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Hawaii, or returned to their families for burial. While the American Graves Registration Service recovered most servicemen killed in the campaign, an estimated 250 servicemen are still listed as missing.

In 1968, the United States returned Iwo Jima to Japanese jurisdiction. In June, 2007, at the urging of its original inhabitants, Japan changed the island’s name back its prewar Iwo To. The 48-star flag in Joe Rosenthal’s photograph is on display at the United States Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Va.

On the 67th anniversary of the Marines landing on Iwo Jima, we remember the men who fought and died on that volcanic island and the legacy they left for today’s Marines.

# *An Old Marine's Prayer*

**By Billy Joe Cawthron  
Association Chaplain**

*Almighty God, I thank You  
for all You have done for me.*

*I thank You for the wonderful nation  
in which I was born.*

*I thank You for the privilege  
of having had the opportunity to defend my nation  
by serving in the Marine Corps.*

*But most of all, I thank You for the men I knew  
and served with—men who put service and honor first.*

*I thank You for the example they set  
of courage and sacrifice.*

*When the order came down to move out,*

*I never had to wonder*

*if the man on my right or left would move.*

*This they did, knowing that some of them  
would never see the sun set.*

*Yes, we joked and teased  
and pulled pranks on each other;  
but most of all, we respected  
and looked after each other.*

*I sometimes wonder why I came home  
while so many of them paid the ultimate price  
for our freedom.*

*I'm sorry they never knew long life  
or enjoyed the joy of having a son or daughter  
sit on their lap and say, "I love you."*

*I shall never forget them,  
and I am a better man for having served with them.*

*O God, may we never forget the price they paid,  
that we might enjoy freedom.*

*May we ever remember that freedom is not free.  
It cost so very much for so many.*

*Thank You, dear Lord. Amen.*

## **Passing on the thanks of one whose father was saved**

The other day I received a letter from someone I had never heard of. He asked me if I was the Billy Cawthron who served with the 5th Marine Division on Iwo Jima. He had seen my name in Chuck Tatum's book, "Red Blood and Black Sand."

I called and talked with him. He said he wanted to thank those who had done so much for him. He told me that his father was a tail gunner on a B-29. While on a raid over Japan, they were badly shot up. They were able to limp back to Iwo Jima, where they landed and had repairs made. He said there was no doubt that, had it not been for the airfield on Iwo Jima, they would never have made it back to their base at Tinian. They would have had to ditch at sea, and the chances of being rescued would have been very slight.

He said he wanted to thank me and others for having saved his father. Then he said, "And by the way, if my father had not been saved, I would not be here either."

So, fellow Marines, I pass on to you the thanks he gave to me for having provided a safe place for his father to land.

**– Billy Joe Cawthron  
Chaplain**

## **Join the IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

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the history of the Battle of Iwo Jima  
for future generations

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# FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

## Statement of Income and Expense

| Year ended December 31,                | 2011              | 2010               | Change             |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                          |                   |                    |                    |
| Dues                                   | 2,600.00          | 4,720.00           | (2,120.00)         |
| General                                | 1,109.00          | 1,376.15           | (267.15)           |
| Gain on sale of investment             | 7,760.00          | 0.00               | 7,760.00           |
| Interest                               | 0.00              | 209.27             | (209.27)           |
| Reunion Deposit                        | 1,782.47          | 23,304.30          | (21,521.83)        |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                    | <b>13,251.47</b>  | <b>29,609.72</b>   | <b>13,042.20</b>   |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                        |                   |                    |                    |
| Administrative Services                | 9,313.83          | 8,075.00           | 1,238.83           |
| Administrative Services: Miscellaneous | 26.36             | 1.08               | 25.28              |
| <b>TOTAL Administrative Services</b>   | <b>9,340.19</b>   | <b>8,076.08</b>    | <b>1,264.11</b>    |
| Office Expenses                        | 829.76            | 1,429.33           | (599.57)           |
| Production & Distribution              | 10,644.72         | 10,739.27          | (94.55)            |
| Reunion Advances                       | 0.00              | 17,901.20          | (17,901.20)        |
| <b>Total operating expense</b>         | <b>20,814.67</b>  | <b>38,145.88</b>   | <b>(17,331.21)</b> |
| Donations to--                         |                   |                    |                    |
| Camp Tarawa Foundation Fund            | 0.00              | 10,000.00          | (10,000.00)        |
| Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund          | 0.00              | 25,000.00          | (25,000.00)        |
| <b>Total donations</b>                 | <b>0.00</b>       | <b>35,000.00</b>   | <b>(35,000.00)</b> |
|                                        | <b>20,814.67</b>  | <b>73,145.88</b>   | <b>(52,331.21)</b> |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>                   | <b>(7,563.20)</b> | <b>(43,536.16)</b> | <b>(39,289.01)</b> |

## Statement of Accounts

|                                                                                          | 31-Dec-11        | 31-Dec-10        | Change<br>Inc/(Dec) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                                                            |                  |                  |                     |
| Bank Account                                                                             | 49,121.08        | 32,284.28        | 16,836.80           |
| Investments--                                                                            |                  |                  |                     |
| Gold in deposit, at cost                                                                 |                  |                  |                     |
| Market value \$46,974.00 at<br>December 31, 2011 and \$71,055.00 at<br>December 31, 2010 | 36,600.00        | 61,000.00        | (24,400.00)         |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                                                      | <b>85,721.08</b> | <b>93,284.28</b> | <b>(7,563.20)</b>   |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                                                                       |                  |                  |                     |
|                                                                                          | 0.00             | 0.00             | 0.00                |
| <b>Net Worth</b>                                                                         | <b>85,721.08</b> | <b>93,284.28</b> | <b>(7,563.20)</b>   |

