



# Spearhead NEWS



"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

60TH ANNUAL REUNION - HOUSTON, TEXAS  
 SEPTEMBER 21 - 27, 2009  
 MARRIOTT NEAR HOBBY AIRPORT

## One Hell of a Marine: Remembering a legend

By John Butler

I first met John Ripley while attending the 60th Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima in 2005. He was an extraordinary Marine who was deeply committed to the history and legacy of Iwo Jima and the men who fought there. Every Marine who reads the *Spearhead News* should know about this legendary Marine who was a guest speaker at the 5th Marine Division Association Reunion last August.



Clint Butler, John Ripley and John Butler on Mt. Suribachi looking north along the landing beaches on a 2005 trip to Iwo Jima for the 60th anniversary.

Col. John Ripley USMC (Ret.) died on Oct. 28, 2008, at his home in Annapolis, Md. He had prevailed in many tough fights throughout his life, including the ordeal of more than one liver transplant, which had finally put limits on his many activities on behalf of the Marine Corps.

At the funeral mass and service at the U.S. Naval Academy chapel prior to his burial at the Naval Academy Cemetery, Gen. James T. Conway, current Commandant of the Marine Corps, was one of the eulogists. Honorary

pallbearers included retired Gen. Walter Boomer, former Assistant Commandant; retired Gen. Carl Mundy, former Commandant; Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Beverley of the Royal Marines; former Lt. Col. Le Ba Binh of the Vietnamese Marine Corps; former Cpl. Jesse Torres and former Sgt. Jack Coogin, two Marines from Col. Ripley's first tour in Vietnam with L/3/3; Retired Col. Wesley

Fox, a Vietnam War MOH recipient; and retired Navy Commander Paul Gallanti, a USNA classmate of Col. Ripley's, who resisted North Vietnamese torture during a seven-year ordeal in the Hanoi Hilton.

Few Marines have been so honored, but John Ripley was a Marine for the ages and most deserving of the honors he received. Col. Ripley's acrobatic, single-handed destruction of the Dong Ha Bridge during the North Vietnamese Easter offensive of 1972 established

Continued on page 6



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**SPEARHEAD NEWS**

Editor - Ray Elliott

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

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**'They're after the ship'**

About the middle of March 1945, as we were assaulting the Japanese MLR in the vicinity of Hill 362, we were receiving heavy artillery fire from ridges to our front. Consequently, we of Shore Fire Control Team No. 2, attached to F/2/26, were attempting to adjust fire and destroy the battery firing at us. The ship we had on station was either Salt Lake City or the Tuscaloosa, and both were heavy cruisers bearing eight-inch main batteries.

Suddenly the hostile fire stopped for no apparent reason, and we at first thought we may have caused damage to our target. This quickly proved to be untrue when Charlie Richards, our observer, shouted, "They're after the ship off shore to the west."

Indeed, one of the first cargo ships to unload off the west side of Iwo was under attack by the same artillery piece, and they were close to having the range. From our position, the ship appeared to be an APA or ARA and was trying to make way.

By the time we adjusted fire twice, the enemy had the ship nearly bracketed, and in desperation, we called for immediate rapid fire of the main battery with three, two-gun salvos, ready ammo (whatever available). The first two shells were off target and long, but the next four came in dead on, and the ridge line collapsed along the Jap gun.

The ship did not delay getting out of the area. I thought no more about the incident until about five years ago when an old friend from Signal Company came to one of our reunions. While we swapped stories, he told me he had been on board a cargo ship off the west side of Iwo that was nearly sunk by Jap artillery. The friend's name was Tom Cubbins.

Apparently, what happened was that Marines from the rear had been detailed aboard this ship in order to expedite the unloading of much-needed ammo.

I should add that the ship may have been a Merchant Marine transport, as it was later rumored that the Merchant Seamen had refused to unload cargo without overtime pay because it happened to be on a weekend. Thus, the reason Marines were put on board.

If any of you recall this incident or were a part of this Marine detail, please let me know; especially if you know the name of the ship and the date of the event.

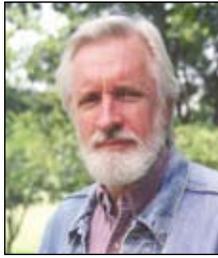
My counter radioman at the time was John Bellaire, now of Hayward, Calif. Charlie Richards received a Silver Star for his actions and is now deceased.

— Mike Dietz, 5th JASCO

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## THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



### ***First flag raiser recognized posthumously in hometown***

When Iwo Jima veteran Phil Ward died in January 2006, he was not recognized as one of the members of the reinforced E/2/28 3rd Platoon that raised the first flag atop Mt. Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945. Even Col. Walter E. Ford (Ret.), editor of *Leatherneck* magazine was quoted in an Associated Press story, datelined Crawfordsville, Ind., as saying that Ward was not in the photos Marine combat photographer Sgt. Lou Lowery took of the first flag raising.

Col. Ford didn't dispute that Ward was on the patrol that morning when the first flag was raised at 10:20 a.m. He was just reported as saying that Ward was not among the Marines involved in the Lowery photographs documenting the flag raising.

Six months after Ward's death when Clint Eastwood's movie, "Flags of our Fathers," was due for release in the fall, reporter Rob Amen of the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review wrote a story headlined, "Famous photo was of second flag raising," and led his piece with a tribute to Ward: "Phil Ward should have lived a life of prestige," and went on to say that he had been denied recognition throughout his life and related the often misunderstood story of the two flag raisings and how the men of the first group had been all but forgotten.

For the record, the seven Marines who raised that first flag and were led by Lt. Harold "George" Schrier were identified as Plt. Sgt. Ernest Ivy "Boots" Thomas, Sgt. Henry O. "Hank" Hansen, Cpl. Charles W. "Chuck" Lindberg, Pfc. James R. "Jim" Michels, Pvt. Philip L. "Phil" Ward, PhM2C John H. "Doc" Bradley (the only man in photos of both flags being raised) and Pfc. Raymond "Ray" Jacobs. Sgt. Howard Snyder was also with the group.

Amen quoted Ray Jacobs, the radio operator pictured in the first flag-raising photo who also had not been recognized as being in the photos for many years, as saying he harbored no bitterness about being shunned.

"(Rosenthal's photo) did the Marine Corps a lot of good," said Jacobs, who died in February 2008. "There was a lot of need for good news."

Jacobs reportedly spent a great deal of time researching the first flag-raising photo and identified the men in it. His only resentment, Amen reported, "was when retired Marine officers questioned his honesty of claiming to be in the first picture."

"They didn't call me a liar, but (suggested) I was making it up," Amen said Jacobs had told him. And at the same time, Amen said Keith Wells of Abilene, Texas, former platoon leader of the 3rd Platoon had "confirmed that Jacobs and Ward participated in the first flag-raising."

Then at the time Eastwood's movie was to be released, the October 2006 issue of *Leatherneck* included a special feature, "Iwo Mystery: Who Was Really at the First Flag Raising?" Phil Ward and Ray Jacobs both were positively identified in the story by Dustin Spense as being among those Marines in virtually every photo Lowery took that morning two hours before Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal and Marine motion-picture cameraman Sgt. Bill Genaust climbed to the top of Mt. Suribachi and took the famous photograph of the second flag raising.

Chuck Tatum, a member of B/1/27 on Iwo Jima, who saw the first flag being raised from the battlefield below Mt. Suribachi, called last fall and then sent material about Phil Ward being recognized posthumously in Crawfordsville, Ind., for his part in the flag-raising history by having a street named after him.

"He was gone by the time he was recognized anywhere," Tatum said at the time. "But he finally got recognized for what he did. The first flag was what we saw. The Marines on the ground never knew they changed the flags until much later."

Phil Ward Boulevard was dedicated on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008, with remarks by Crawfordsville Mayor Charlie Coons, who said, "It is particularly important for all of us to recognize those who have served our country with particular distinction. We hope this dedication will help inspire future generations as they remember Phil Ward and his fine example – as a soldier and as a citizen – who invested himself in the future of his country."

And it was "particularly important" that Phil Ward be recognized for where he was that morning of Feb, 23, 1945. The prestige was always there. Too bad the recognition only came after his death.

## Seeking information about Pvt. Murdock A. Campbell

Dean Keeley (F/2/26), who maintains a Fifth Marine Division Web site, suggested contacting you regarding my request for any information on Pvt. Murdock A. Campbell, who served with the 28th Marines on Iwo Jima. He is a cousin of mine who grew up in Wisconsin, born 1924. If you have any info on his unit, company, etc., I'd appreciate it for a family history I'm working on. All we have is the family story that he was KIA on Iwo, but not the date or any other info. Thanks for any help you can provide!

– Steve Campbell  
*Steven.Campbell@dvn.com*

**Editor's note:** *As Dean Keeley advised, you can request a copy of his service records. For information about how to do so, check the Web site Keeley maintains at groups.yahoo.com/group/fifthmarinedivisionww2.*

## Asbestosis information sought

I am a Life Member of the Fifth Marine Division Association and served with the Fifth Marine Division on Iwo Jima with F/2/13. I need some information about Asbestosis. Let me give you some background.

The local VA here in Pennsylvania had me put in a claim when they found Asbestosis in my lungs. There is no record in my file, but then again, not everything gets in your record. My question is: Is there anyone in the 13th Marines who remembers that we had to waterproof our equipment before going into combat? I told them that did happen, but I need confirmation.

The following list of men who were in my outfit Dudley, Rimmel H - Now Col.; Campbell, Archibald A. 2nd Lt.; Hjerp, Carl W. Maj.; Babcock, William R. Pfc.; Andrejko, John Pvt.; Bradwell, Guy L. Pfc.; Springer, Gerald N. Pvt.; Sweet, John M. Pfc.; Susi, Frank N. Jr.; Stolarz, Walter; and Montone, Costante.

I would like to be able to contact these men or to hear from them or anyone else who might have information to confirm that we had to waterproof out equipment prior to landing.

– West W.B. Seachrist  
F/2/13  
*westwbs@yahoo.com*

## 'Spearhead' volumes available for reprinting, left by Iwo vet

Thanks for your efforts in continuing the legacy of the Fifth Marine Division. My uncle, Sam Zigtema, was wounded on Feb. 21 [1945] and was a paraplegic until he died from his injuries in 1967. I have many good memories of him but wish he had lived longer. He was down to 97 pounds in the hospital right after the war and struggled many years. But he led the local paraplegic basketball team, worked, was a gunsmith, fished, hunted and was a great uncle.

Among the things he left behind were copies of *The Spearhead*. For those who don't know, there were three volumes: Camp Pendleton, Iwo Jima and Occupation. They are 50-60 pages long with lots of pictures and, for lack of anything else, I compare them to high school yearbooks. The pictures in these give me a little more understanding of what he went through as a Marine.

Maybe the Association would like to make copies of these and distribute them as a fundraiser. I had the first two volumes and traded to get the third, so have a complete set in pdf format. If it is improper to copy and distribute these, please let me know.

– Steve Vogelzang  
Ames, Iowa

## Penicillin a miracle drug that helped

My wife, Frances (now deceased), was in the WAVES in WWII, and one of her duty stations was at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. She was a pharmacist mate second class and was an occupational therapist. She may have cared for some of the men of the Fifth Division.

She told me that some of the injured from Guadalcanal were still there in 1944 when she was there. They hadn't been able to cure completely their jungle rot and sores. When penicillin came out that year, it began healing them in a matter of two weeks.

It was a real miracle drug! I had jungle sores for two years after being discharged, before it was finally cured.

– Kent F. Stegner  
A/1/28

Greeley, Colo.

**Editor's note:** *The discovery of the cantaloupe, and the results of fermentation research on corn-steep liquid at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria, Ill., reportedly allowed the U.S. to produce 2.3 million doses in time for the invasion of Normandy in the spring of 1944.*

## ***BAR on the Beach contributions picking up***

With your permissions, I'll abbreviate BAR on the Beach to BOTB as our ad hoc committee members have done over this past year. We want to avoid coming down with carpal tunnel syndrome from all of this typing. Even a few checks have been made out to BOTB Fund (or Project). That'll work, too.

Since my last update in the fall issue of *Spearhead News*, contributions are beginning again. The news that Association members at the business meeting in Washington also approved a handsome donation obviously made a difference. But we still have a gap to fill, and our members are the only ones who can fill it.

It is my sad duty to also report that our former Association legal adviser, Tom Tyre, has passed away. He is sorely missed by those who knew him. His extended family insists that the \$1,000 contribution Tom made for our project over a year ago is to be left in place. They also indicated in Tom's obituary that "in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the BAR on the Beach Sculpture Project or the Arlington Recreational and Park Committee, Inc." and are directing the funeral home in Arlington, Vt., to forward the BAR contributions to me.

A correction and apology on my part: In my last update article on BOTB on page 6 of the *Spearhead News*, I erroneously cited Rob Eccleston's first BOTB statue in a WW II memorial park in Dayton, Ohio, rather than Warren, Ohio, as clearly stated in the caption under the photo in the article. (Clearly, a "senior moment." I knew better, but at least I can say I had the location in the right state.)

A side note: John Huffines tells me that the article on page 7 about the reunion journal article for the Washington Reunion dealing with what the proposed invasion of Japan might have been like has prompted 34 orders so far, generating more than \$400 for the reunion's bottom line. There are several journals left over. This may be your last chance. Get 'em while they're hot.

But contributions for the BOTB Fund should still be sent to Bert Clayton, 1714 Deer Run Dr., Harrison, AR 72601, rather than to the Association's Box 1775 address. Those are separate entities. Make checks out to "BAR on the Beach Fund."

**– Bert Clayton  
Ad Hoc Committee Secretary**

## **FINAL MUSTER (“Roll Call of the Reef”)**

BENNINK, Howard E. **F-2-27** 12/21/08  
CULLEN, James **G-3-26** 01/11/09  
HOLLAND, Russell F. **K-2-13** 11/08/08  
MAIDEN, Roger F. **D-2-26** 01/23/09  
THOMAS, Richard H. Jr. **HQ-1-28** 10/18/08  
TYRE, Thomas E. **D-2-13** 11/26/08  
WAGNER, Ernest L. **B-1-27** 10/27/08  
WATERS, John W. **HQ-1-28** 11/15/08  
WHITE, Ted **E-2-28** 12/28/08  
WILFORD, Joseph B. **5TH SIG** 01/12/09



### **Auxiliary grateful for contributions**

The Ladies Auxiliary made a little more than \$2,200 on all our projects in 2008. Thanks to all who generously contributed items for our Silent Auction. We will have another auction again in 2009. We will be very grateful for any contributions to our cause.

**– Pat McGruder  
Auxiliary Correspondent**

## **Secretary's Corner**

A reminder: If you are 80 or older, you can get a Life Membership for \$50. Life membership for those 65 to 79 costs \$100. And for those under age 65, the cost is \$150.

We were pleased with the response we had after it was announced in the previous *Spearhead News*. In fact, we were deluged with \$50 checks.

If you have not paid your 2008 dues by March 31, 2009, you will be dropped from the membership list. Also, please notify us of any change of address. As third-class mail, the *Spearhead News* is not forwarded by the U.S. Post Office. It comes back to us, and we pay to get it out of hock and to forward it, if we learn where to send it. A postcard or letter with the old and new address is very helpful.

Lastly, we now have available the application forms for college scholarships. Contact me if you need one.

**– Ted Overgard  
Secretary**

his legacy. His life over a career of 32 years, and those following his retirement, validated it. John Ripley was not only a legendary Marine hero, he was a first-class gentleman whose dedication and service to the Marine Corps, his friends and his family defined his life.

His destruction of the Dong Ha Bridge, which is now immortalized in a diorama at the Naval Academy's Memorial Hall, not only exhibited his military and physical skills, courage and grit, but more so his extraordinary sense of duty and obligation to others. At that time, the United States had all but thrown in the towel in its effort to keep South Vietnam a free country. A handful of advisers and a few gritty Vietnamese Marines were all that remained to defend a weakened South Vietnam from an armored juggernaut. The destruction of the Dong Ha Bridge by Ripley caused the North Vietnamese offensive to bog down, which discredited its architect, the brilliant North Vietnamese general, Vo Nguyen Giap, who had so bedeviled the French and then the Americans in more than 20 years of continuous warfare.

For destroying the Dong Ha Bridge, John Ripley was awarded a Navy Cross. One can easily argue that it should have been the Medal of Honor. And if American troops had been engaged there, it likely would have been.

That it was above and beyond the call of duty can hardly be questioned, and clearly it was an extraordinary act of military bravery, professionalism and competence. Medal of Honor or not, this act established John Ripley's stature as an extraordinary Marine for the ages.

On his last day in Saigon, after completing the year tour as an adviser following the aftermath of the Easter offensive, he took time to visit the family and grave site of Three-Finger Jack, the Vietnamese Marine Battalion Commander's bodyguard, who went down fighting in hand-to-hand combat protecting the CP. Ripley located Jack's family, giving them all the Vietnamese money he had on him, and then went to

Jack's grave for a final farewell, returning Jack's prized knife Ripley had removed from his dead hand.

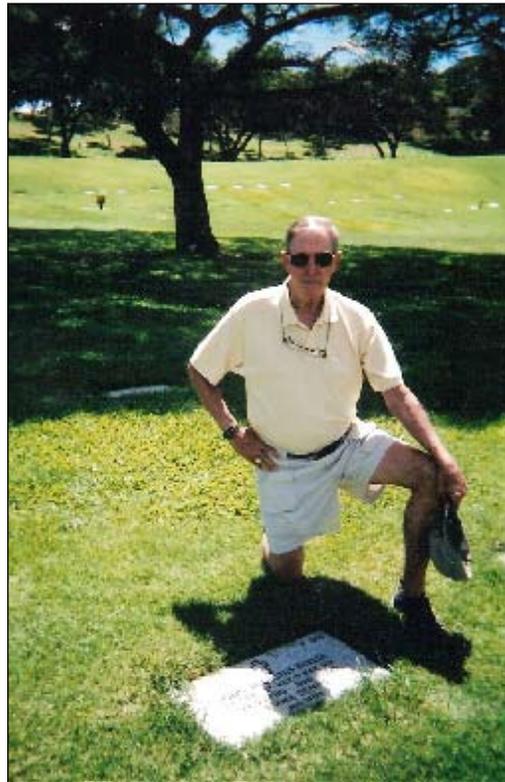
Only an extraordinary person does this type of thing. This account is found in the epilogue of Col. John Gridley Miller's book, "The Bridge at Dong Ha."

John Ripley often demonstrated he was an exceptional Marine before and after the bridge at Dong Ha was destroyed. His 32-year career included service as a Force Recon Marine in 1965 and command of L/3/3 in Vietnam for more than a year of tough fighting with North Vietnamese troops in Leatherneck Square in 1966-67. During this period, he was wounded but returned to action and was awarded two Silver Stars. His continuous command of a rifle company throughout his tour was unusual in that the majority of Marine officers commanding companies were rotated to staff assignments after six months.

In October 1969, Ripley was selected to serve as the Exchange Officer to the British Royal Marines. He completed the Royal Marine Commando Course and then served in Singapore with the 3rd Commando Brigade with the elite 40 Commando in Northern Malaya, where he campaigned with the famous Gurkha rifles. Col. Ripley also served with the Special Boat Services and with two Commando companies, one of which he commanded. He also underwent mountain training and arctic cold weather training in Norway while serving with the Royal Marines.

Ripley had the distinction of successfully completing the toughest military training programs in the world: Marine Recon, Army Rangers, Army Airborne and the Royal Marines Commando course. He was scuba qualified, an airborne jump master and an expert with demolitions. Recently, he was inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

He went on to command a Marine infantry battalion and a regiment. Few Marine officers acquired the infantry combat and command experience equal to John Ripley's. With all that, he also acquired academic credentials and served as an ROTC instructor at Oregon State and VMI, and he served as the senior Marine officer



**John Ripley at Lt. Col. Butler's grave marker at the National Cemetery of the Pacific or Punchbowl.**

and director of the history and English department at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Following retirement from the Marine Corps, Col. Ripley served as president and chancellor of a small college and of a college prep military academy in Virginia. In June 1999, Col. Ripley was selected by the Marine Corps to serve as the director of Marine Corps History and Museums and director of the Marine Corps Historical Center, a position he held until health concerns forced his retirement in 2006. His contribution to the historical center was immense. Concurrently, he also became the Iwo Jima historian of record with Military Historical Tours and accompanied Iwo Jima veterans and their families on annual visits to Iwo Jima. He also lectured extensively on the Iwo Jima battle at every opportunity.

Ripley came to know Iwo Jima while serving with the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa, where he took every opportunity to visit the island. Walking every square yard of Iwo and sleeping alone at night on top of Mt. Suribachi, Ripley came to know Iwo Jima better than anyone who did not fight there. His extensive combat experience and his keen sense of terrain gave him an insight few historians have.

One could hardly imagine a better guide to tour Iwo Jima with than John Ripley, so my brother and I were more than pleased when we were assigned to his tour group, which included 89-year-old Col. Gerald Russell, who as XO and later CO of 2/27 and had landed and fought alongside my father's 1/27 from D-Day onward; Ray Elliott, current editor of *Spearhead News*; Jim Brooke, New York Times correspondent; and my brother, Clint, and his wife, Leigh.

Prior to this, I had known of but did not personally know John Ripley, a Virginian who was my age and a year behind me at the Naval Academy. I had read "The Bridge at Dong Ha" and had a sense that Ripley was as extraordinary as the feat he performed.

I went on the trip with a lifelong connection to Iwo Jima. My father, Lt. Col John Butler, commanding officer of 1/27, lost his life there when I was just 5 years old. Armed with my dad's battle map and a copy of the landing plan for 1/27 on Red Beach Two and nearly a lifetime of reading about Iwo Jima, I was eager to see the battle sites I had read and heard about.

While I had previously visited Iwo Jima in February 1965 with a group of Iwo veterans then on active duty and serving with FMFPAC units in Japan and Okinawa, the trip did not allow sufficient time to visit battle sites other than Mt. Suribachi, where I had

a photo taken of myself and Father Paul Bradley, then still a Navy chaplain.

John Ripley's knowledge, passion and enthusiasm made for a spellbinding trip. Faced with a time-restricted schedule, he managed to cover every major battle site and took some unplanned time to lead my brother and me at a double-time through the scrub to the Southern end of Motoyama Airfield No. 1, which was secured by 1/27 on D-Day, not far from where John Basilone had fallen and where we took photos and placed a small flag.

We travelled in a humvee from the JSDF air terminal near the center of the island, where Hills 382 and the "Meat Grinder" were located, to the landing beaches and Mt. Suribachi. From Suribachi, we traveled the western coastal road to Hill 362A and Nishi Ridge and finally on to Kitano Point and the Gorge. At each battle site or enemy position, we disembarked and Ripley gave a stirring account of the action that had taken place. On occasions Col. Russell added a personal account, including an account of the wounding and death of Jack Lummus, the All-American end from Baylor slated to play for the New York Giants.

After we returned to Guam for the flights home, I saw and spoke with Ripley briefly. Later that year after a few e-mail exchanges, I received a kind note in the mail with a photo of Col. Ripley at my father's grave site in the Punchbowl. In the note, he said that the Punchbowl was one of his favorite places in this world, that he liked to stop and visit the Iwo Jima greats at rest there, and this was something he had done a number of times when passing through Hawaii.

Following our initial meeting on the Iwo Jima trip, I came to know John Ripley better through my Basic School and USNA classmates who knew him from prior service and from living in Annapolis. This included my old Naval Academy roommate, retired Marine Col. John LeCornu, who was in the last stages of fighting cancer. I made two trips to Annapolis during this period, the last being for my roommate's funeral, and I saw John Ripley on both trips.

On the first trip, my old roommate and I joined Ripley and Mac Greely, a Basic School classmate, for a memorable three-hour lunch at an Annapolis waterside café. Mac, known as Brendan Greely, is retired from the U.S. Naval Institute and has recently authored a book on Tom Lea, a famous WWII and Western artist, and one of John Ripley's many friends.

On the occasion of the last visit to attend my roommate's funeral, Ripley's social activity was limited

*Continued on next page*

Continued from previous page

because of his wife's health, but we did visit briefly and he showed me his study, a veritable mini-Marine Corps museum.

Since my last trip to Annapolis, I saw John at the Association of Iwo Jima gathering in February 2007, and again last August at the 5th Marine Division Association Reunion. At the last event, I asked John how he was feeling and he said good, but without going into any detail, told me that his kids "had pulled his liberty card." One would hardly believe that John Ripley had undergone multiple liver transplants and that he was on borrowed time. Surely one would never know it from seeing him. A recent article in Leatherneck on John's selection to the Ranger Hall of Fame quoted someone as saying, "John Ripley was tougher than a woodpecker's beak." That he was.

On Oct. 27, just a day before he died, he took time to meet my brother and his family at Annapolis and accompanied them on a tour of the Naval Academy. He broke it off halfway through but found some midshipmen

to finish the tour and then invited my brother and his family to drop by his house where they visited him in his study located in the basement of his old Annapolis home on Hanover Street, parallel to the Academy wall. My brother may well have been the last person to see him alive and was totally shocked on hearing that John had been found dead at his home. His thank-you e-mail sent the next day sadly remained unanswered.

In a phone conversation with John Ripley just prior to my brother's planned Annapolis trip, Ripley told me he was fast-walking daily and had a workout schedule. Later I learned that the Catholic chaplain had encountered John Ripley power-walking the Naval Academy sea wall in the early morning fog just days before his death. To the very last, Ripley was giving all he had.

John Ripley was a most extraordinary Marine and equally an extraordinary person of the highest character. I was honored and privileged to have met and known him to the extent that I had and lamented that so many in our society have no clue that men like John Ripley exist.

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Iwo Jima Survivor or Association shirts, various colors and sizes, most with a pocket. (Note: At this time, Association shirts are only available in Red, with pocket, size L. Inquire with your size and colors, and we'll get back to you ASAP.) Inquire about embroidery on your favorite shirts.



**Baseball Hat** ..... **\$22** net shipped priority mail  
USA-made, twill, adjustable. Embroidered on front: 5th Marine Division, USMC-Logo-WWII, Iwo Jima Survivor. Available as of Feb 2009: Red, White, Black, Dark Green and Navy Blue



**Baseball Hat** ..... **\$22** net shipped priority mail  
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- 5th Marine Division Hat Pin/Lapel Pin** ..... **\$5** postage paid
  - Crossed Flags Hat Pin/Lapel Pin** ..... **\$5** postage paid
  - 5th Marine Division Outside Decal** ..... **\$3** postage paid
  - 5th Marine Division Sew-On Patch** ..... **\$5** postage paid
  - 5th Marine Division T-Shirt** (size L or XL) ..... **\$15** postage paid
  - Iwo Jima Bumper Sticker** ..... **\$4** postage paid
  - Iwo Jima License Plate** ..... **\$10** plus \$3 shipping
- Red background with gold design and lettering

[ Payment via check or money order, made out to Stan Blake ]

# A Japanese general rewrites the past

## *The story of World War II varies by country*

**By Warren Kozak**

*The Wall Street Journal -- Dec. 5, 2008*

On Dec. 7, 1941, 353 Japanese planes launched from six aircraft carriers destroyed most of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. That morning, 2,402 American servicemen were killed. Until Sept. 11, 2001, this was the highest number of casualties in an attack on the United States.

But 67 years and three generations later, memory fades. And some Japanese are actively trying to rewrite their country's history.

Just over a month ago, the head of Japan's Air Force, Gen. Toshio Tamogami, was fired by Prime Minister Taro Aso after he entered and won the grand prize in a history essay contest in which he advanced some very interesting ideas. Among other things, Gen. Tamogami wrote that President Franklin Roosevelt entrapped Japan into carrying out Pearl Harbor, that Japan never waged a war of aggression, and if Japan had not fought the war it may have very well become "a white nation's colony."

This would be news to the more than 15 million Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos and others who died at the hands of the Japanese.

To be fair, Gen. Tamogami is not alone in his views. Many members of Japan's military have chafed under the restraints imposed on it by its own constitution, which allows Japan to only maintain a self-defense force. Under the umbrella of U.S. protection since 1945, this has also helped Japan save billions of dollars in defense costs – money that went into Japanese education, industry and infrastructure.

But the prohibition against having a military like other nations has frustrated officers who are deeply connected to the warrior tradition in their culture. It's no accident that of the 230 essayists who entered the now infamous contest, as many as 94 served under Gen. Tamogami.

Since 1945, Japan has apologized to other Asian nations, but it has also stressed the devastation of the atomic bombs in its own history lessons and paid insufficient attention to what led up to that event.

Japan is hardly alone in rewriting history. Practically every country involved in World War II has developed its own version of the story. In Russia, the telling of what they call "the Great Patriotic War" never deals with the Hitler-Stalin Pact or the debacle that caught the Soviet Union off guard when the Germans broke the deal and marched all the way to Moscow.

The Germans have been honest in their culpability: Students continue to take field trips to concentration camps. But the Austrians still have the audacity to call themselves the "first victims of Nazism" and conveniently forget the two million Austrians that cheered wildly for Hitler on his return to Vienna.

The worst case of historical revisionism I ever witnessed was actually in the museum connected to the Chiang Kai-shek memorial in Taipei, where the lesson of World War II comes down to this: The nationalist Chinese valiantly fought the Japanese and eventually defeated them, while the communists under Mao Zedong did little fighting and simply hoarded weapons (it was the other way around). And what was the involvement of the United States? The U.S. sold oil to the Japanese. Period.

America has its revisionists of course. Holocaust deniers tell us the Nazi death camps never actually existed. In a recent bestseller by Pat Buchanan, we learn that it was really Winston Churchill who pushed World War II on the world. Another book by Nicholson Baker tells us the true heroes of the war were not the young Americans and Englishmen who died fighting, but the pacifists who refused to allow their humanity to be destroyed. Even director Clint Eastwood showed us in "Letters From Iwo Jima" that there was very little difference between Japanese soldiers (an army of conquest) and U.S. Marines (a force of liberation).

In some cases, this comes from a moral equivalence that has taken hold of our collective mind. In other cases, it's much darker.

News of Gen. Tamogami's essay did not sit well in Beijing, with its own expanding military, or in Seoul. And his quick ouster did much to quiet things down. Prime Minister Aso understands that memories of the Japanese onslaught throughout the region are still fresh in the minds of many Asians. In any given month in the first half of 1945, upwards of 250,000 Asians were dying at the hands of Japanese. That's no longer war: It's genocide.

But in September of 1945, the number dropped to zero when the Japanese were finally forced to surrender. The end of that horrible conflict did not come about because of a change of heart: The war ended only because the Axis powers were soundly and utterly defeated. Probably not a bad place to restart the history lesson.

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*Kozak is the author of the forthcoming book, LeMay: The Life and Wars of Curtis LeMay, to be published in May by Regnery. © Dow Jones & Co. – Permission Granted*

# Last days for Marine were true finest hours

*Editor's note; While Gaspar Musso was not in the Fifth Marine Division, he was a Marine and his story is worth sharing.*

## By Denis Hamill

Sometimes when old Marines die they do fade away into unmarked graves in Potter's Field.

Such might have been the case for Gaspar Musso, USMC 925050, who fought in the Battle of Tinian in the Marianas Islands in 1944 and who died Nov. 15 at age 84 in a Brooklyn nursing home.

Enter Police Officer Susan Porcello, a PBA delegate at the 68th Precinct in Bay Ridge and one of those big-hearted New Yorkers who still make this the best city on Earth.

"No way was I going to let this brave old Marine who fought for his country in WWII get buried in Potter's Field," she says.

Porcello first met Musso back in July when she responded to a 911 ambulance call to the retired insurance broker's one-bedroom apartment on, appropriately, Marine Avenue.

"When my partner, Eddie Ennis, and I arrived at his apartment, Gaspar seemed a little bit down about himself," Porcello says. "He said he felt alone in the world. We talked to him a bit, and as I looked around his tidy apartment I noticed that he had served in the military – the Marines to be exact."

Porcello asked him about family and friends. "Look around you, what do you see?" Musso said. "I have no family or friends."

To which Porcello said, "Well, I'm your friend."

Right there, with those four beautiful words, Gaspar Musso was destined to die with the dignity he'd earned with a rifle in his hands, fighting in a USMC uniform, in a war that saved civilization.

If she didn't already wear a badge, you'd want to pin a star on Susan Porcello.

Musso, a diabetic with a host of other age-related maladies, had accidentally overdosed on his prescription medications. Porcello accompanied him to Lutheran Medical Center.



**Gaspar Musso, 2nd Marine Division**

"I told him I'd be back to visit him and take him to a senior center where he could make some friends," said Porcello, who comes from a big Italian family with a mom, dad, three sisters and a brother.

"I told him I was making him my 'Grandpa,' and if he liked, he could spend Thanksgiving with my family. Eddie and I discussed alternating holidays with Gaspar so he wouldn't be alone for any of them."

Two days later Musso was placed in critical care. Porcello asked hospital staff where he'd be buried if he didn't make it. "Potter's Field," said one administrator.

"This infuriated me," said

Porcello. "There was no way I was going to let a man who fought for our country be buried in Potter's Field. Not on my watch!"

Porcello told the hospital to keep her apprised of Musso's condition. She had a local priest visit him. Porcello even asked NYPD's Missing Person's Squad to search for next of kin.

No luck.

Musso had been an only child to Anthony and Marie Musso, both deceased. He had no other relatives. Musso's only friend, an upstairs neighbor, had died the year before.

After his health improved, Musso asked Porcello to become his official health proxy. She transferred him to Caton Park Nursing Home, where he was treated extremely well. She visited him often, learning that Musso was born May 7, 1924, joined the USMC in December 1943, finished training at Camp Lejune in March 1944 and was fighting with the 2nd Marines on Tinian Island by July 1944.

"I visited Gaspar on Nov. 13, bringing him rosary beads, a Bible and his reading glasses," she said.

"The next day, Nov. 14, I returned and found Gaspar sitting up in a chair, dressed in his own clothes. Looking great."

Porcello washed his hands and face, trimmed his

# Dog handlers honored at Doberman Pincher centennial

By Cyril J. O'Brien

*Combat Correspondent*

World War II dog handler Robert S. Forsyth of Pinehurst, N.C., was awarded the Bronze Star after 65 years for action on Bougainville, British Solomon Island, in 1943. And several other war-dog handlers were presented the Medal of Freedom of the Doberman Pincher Club of America in Topeka, Kan., in a mid-October international meeting to mark the centennial of the Doberman breed.

The Marines were particularly feted for their roles with war dogs in the Pacific War.

Col. Stephen D. Waldron, deputy commander, Marine Corps Mobilization Command, Kansas City, Mo., presented the Bronze Star to former PFC Forsyth, himself a recognized dog show judge, and the Medal of Freedom to Forsyth and the other handlers. They were Edmund Adamski, Schererville, Ind.; Thurman Clark, Adrian, Mich.; Ivan Hamilton, Newport Beach, Calif.; Walter Marx, Johnston, R.I.; Francis Pastusic, Mildred, Pa.; Lawrence Schurz, Rewey, Wis.; Kenneth Sheppard, Pittston, Pa.; Bruce Wellington, Camarillo, Calif.; and Samuel Harvey Winstead, Leasburg, N.C.

Forsyth was cited for working behind enemy lines and making way for an infantry platoon attack into the rear of an entrenched Japanese position. Bougainville brought the first upfront use of war dogs in the Pacific. Though used to detect and warn of the enemy, the dogs were essential as messengers because early radio did not function well in the dense jungle where telephone lines proved too difficult to string.

David Kontny, senior adviser, National Canine Policy and Standards, Office of Bombing Prevention, Department of Homeland Security, made clear that dogs are still big in national security, particularly for their roles of detection and protection. Kontny is a former Air Force chief master sergeant.

Doberman Club President Dr. Sam F. Burke Jr.,



**War dog handlers who received the Medal of Freedom of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America at the centennial meeting at Topeka, Kan., in October 2008 include (left to right) Cyril J. O'Brien, Combat Correspondent, with Doberman, extreme left, front row; Handlers Kenneth Shepperd with Doberman; Bruce Wellington with Doberman; Samuel Harvey Winstead with Doberman; and Francis Pastusic. Back row: Walter Marx; Ivan Hamilton; Lawrence Schurz; Robert Forsyth (also awarded the Bronze Star 65 years after heroic action on Bougainville in 1943); Edmund Adamski; and Thurman Clark.**

Shrieveport, La., hailed the heroism of dogs and handlers and essentially saw an overriding camaraderie in which Marines will ever be a part of Doberman history.

War dogs, mostly family pets, were enlisted in the Marine Corps for the war, served throughout the Pacific from Bougainville to Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Their greatest engagement was on Guam, where they were commanded by Capt. William Putney who trained them at New River, N.C. Twenty-five dogs were lost on Guam.

Dr. Putney was able to have dedicated a war-dog cemetery on Guam, marked by a bust of the notable Doberman, Kurt, who warned of the great Japanese Banzai attack. The bust was rendered by the noted California artist Susan Bahary.

Doberman Pinchers became the official war dogs of the Marines in World War II and were the largest group donated, although many other breeds (German Shepherds, Muskies, Labradors and Collies) were also war dogs.

*Continued on page 12*

## Last days

Continued from page 10

nails and eyebrows and asked if he was coming to her house for Thanksgiving. "I'm trying!" he said. He also asked Porcello to bring him a Christmas wreath for his room.

The next morning Porcello received a phone call saying that Gaspar Musso had died peacefully in his sleep.

No way was she going to let her good friend be toe-tagged and buried in Potter's Field. Porcello paid out of her own pocket for a wake at McLaughlin's on Third Avenue and a mass at St. Patrick's Church in Bay Ridge, where a crowd of good-hearted cops from the 68th Precinct filled the pews, six serving as pallbearers. Sgt. Angel Rosa of the 68th, also a Marine, arranged for a USMC honor guard at Musso's funeral.

Then Taps blew over Gaspar Musso, United States Marine, as he was buried next to his mother at Resurrection Cemetery in Staten Island.

With the dignity he deserved.

Semper Fi.

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## Dog handlers

Continued from page 11

Many of the surviving war dogs were released with the permission of previous owner families to their handlers after the war. All of the veteran war dogs, including the many returned to owners, reportedly lived pleasant, fire-place family lives, and there was not a single report ever of a bite or a problem.

That's because, Doberman trainer and war-dog combat leader Dr. Putney said, "They were Marines."

## Quote of Note:

**Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the Marines don't have that problem.**

**- President Ronald Reagan, 1985**

## Fifth Marine Division Association STATEMENT OF INCOME

Year ended Dec. 31,	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues	10,745.00	8,720.00
General	1,814.70	2,611.71
Membership receipts	12,559.70	11,331.71
Interest income	6,630.00	7,583.86
Dividend income	0.00	2,121.30
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>19,189.90</b>	<b>21,036.87</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Administrative services	11,300.00	9,625.00
Office expenses	1,241.42	1,015.68
Reunion advance	2,912.00	3,000.00
Spearhead News		
Production & distribution	8,575.05	8,673.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>24,028.47</b>	<b>22,314.43</b>
<b>NET INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>( 4,848.57)</b>	<b>(1,277.56)</b>

## Fifth Marine Division Association STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

	Balance	
	31 DEC 08	31 DEC 07
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Bank account	49,496.65	123,278.05
Investments		
Bank of America CD 2.41% due Feb. 27, 2009	35,387.56	34,444.73
Uvest Financial Services GMAC Bank CD 5.20% due July 11, 2008	0.00	32,003.52
CITI Group Inc Internotes 6% due Aug. 15, 2009	100,000.00	
Less unrealized return on investment	(8,773.00)	( 26.30)
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>91,227.00</b>	<b>31,977.22</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>176,111.21</b>	<b>189,700.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>176,111.21</b>	<b>189,700.00</b>

# Camp Tarawa Foundation looking to build museum

The Marine Corps League Camp Tarawa Detachment #1255 has formed the Camp Tarawa Foundation to facilitate the building of the Camp Tarawa Museum on the Big Island of Hawai'i. According to Jim Browne, editor of the detachment newsletter, the foundation has a local architect on board, and he has been working with Camp Tarawa Foundation board members on sketches for both the proposed front elevation and the floor plan.

The vision of the foundation is "to create a museum to preserve and educate the public on the history surrounding the interaction between the Parker Ranch, the town of Waimea (Kamuela) and the U.S. military during World War II, starting with Dec. 7, 1941, and ending with the Fifth Marine Division leaving Camp Tarawa for the occupation of Japan in August 1945."

Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Army arrived on the island and initiated the blackout, food rationing and Martial Law. Not long after the Army left the island in the fall of 1943 and the bloody battle for Tarawa was over, the remnants of the Second Marine Division arrived on Dec. 3 to replace their dead and wounded from the bloodiest battle in the history of the Marine Corps and opened Camp Tarawa to train for the coming crucial battles of Saipan and Tinian.

The Fifth Marine Division had been activated at Camp Pendleton in January of 1944, and by that fall, the division had arrived on the island to continue training at Camp Tarawa while awaiting orders. Those orders came in December 1944 for the assault on Iwo Jima, and Marines began loading onto transports on 16 December. The last units pulled out of Camp Tarawa on 4 January 1945.

Men who had not been killed or seriously wounded left Iwo Jima on 27 March and returned to Camp Tarawa to regroup and prepare for the invasion of Japan. Fortunately, that wasn't necessary, and the Fifth was again loaded onto transports on 27 August 1945 and transferred to Japan for Occupation duty. Camp Tarawa was turned over to the Army and then closed in November 1945.

According to a March 1995 article in The Waimea Gazette, "On July, 3, 1984, the Waimea Civic Club renewed old ties by erecting a monument to the brave servicemen who had been our guests during World War

II. ... A large rock symbolic of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima with a brass plaque made from shell casings now stands at the gate of Pu'uopelo on Mamalalo Highway."

Jim Browne reported in a recent e-mail that Col. William K. Rockey, USMC (Ret.), son of Fifth Marine Division Commander Maj. Gen. Keller L. Rockey for the Iwo Jima Campaign, recently made a trip to the island and visited the memorial for the first time. Other visitors stop by regularly.

Plans are for the museum, with a preferred location as close to the memorial as possible, to have approximately 5,000 square feet of space with the exterior elevations to be plantation style. The interior will be "of modular construction so walls can be moved to accommodate changes in exhibits when needed."

A small theater will be equipped to show "short documentaries on the history of Camp Tarawa, the town of Waimea and the Parker Ranch during World War II."

Tax-deductible contributions in support of the project may be made to: Camp Tarawa Foundation; P.O. Box 385551; Waikoloa, HI 96738.



**Howard N. McLaughlin, 5th Engr., stands beside the Camp Tarawa Memorial located near the gate of Pu'uopelo on Mamalalo Highway. The large rock, symbolic of Mt. Suribachi, has a brass plaque made from shell casings. In the background, bronze plaques commemorating the contributions of the Second and Fifth Marine Divisions and the Parker Ranch, which leased the land to the United States government for one dollar a year during the war. A museum is being planned to preserve the history and educate the public.**

# GySgt. John Basilone Award recognizes Marines for courage and commitment

The sixth annual commemoration of GySgt. John Basilone Day marked the 64th anniversary of the Marine landing on Iwo Jima. Originally recognized once in New Jersey in the 1960s, Basilone Day has been celebrated since 19 February 2002. That year the official ceremony took place at American Legion Post 139 in Arlington, Va., with former CMC Gen. Alfred Gray USMC (Ret). in attendance

The second John Basilone Day in 2003 was sponsored in part by the National Headquarters of the Marine Corps League and was held at the Freedom Museum in Manassas, Va. Members of the Ceremonial Platoon from Quantico MCB carried the colors. Former Marine Bill Landsford sent a video from California recalling his memories of Gunny Basilone.

However, 2004 was one of the most memorable of Basilone Days thus far. Again celebrated at the Freedom Museum, the day was also recognized officially by 14 governors with official proclamations in their respective states. The guest speaker was former Marine and author of "Red Blood Black Sand" Chuck Tatum who was with Gunny Basilone on Iwo Jima.

Presenting the first annual GySgt. John Basilone Award for Courage and Commitment to Sgt. Maj. C.A. "Mack" McKinney USMC (Ret.) was the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, John L. Estrada. Attendees traveled from as far away as New Jersey to honor this special occasion.

Since 2004, the GySgt. John Basilone Award for Courage and Commitment has been given to Marines who epitomize the attributes that Gunny Basilone lived his life by – courage, commitment and an undying love for his Corps. The recipients are recommended by Senior NCOs to the Sergeant of the Marine Corps, who then makes his selection from the list.

The IRS recently gave the Basilone Award/Scholarship its stamp of approval with the designation of 501(c)3 status as a non-profit entity. And because

GySgt. Basilone never came home and never had a chance to have children, a scholarship of \$1,000 was attached to the award for the recipient to attend school.

The scholarship may be used toward acquiring an associate, bachelor, master's, Ph.D. degree and/or a trade certification. There is no time limit on the scholarship so that Marines can choose to continue their education years after they separate or retire from the Marine Corps. The scholarship goes directly to the institution of the Marine's choice upon a letter of verification from the registrar or administration of said institution.

The scholarships have been covered for 2008 and 2009 by an anonymous donor from New Jersey. However, for the preceding three years 2005-2007, the scholarships are not currently available as the

award was given prior to the 501(c)3 status and funds had not yet been donated.

This year's recipient is GySgt. Terry L. McElwain, who has served three tours in Iraq. Among his many commendations are three Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

– **Jordan Schneider**

GySgt. John Basilone Award/Scholarship  
[www.johnbasilonestampcampaign.com](http://www.johnbasilonestampcampaign.com)  
571-259-4624

***The award has been given  
to Marines who epitomize the  
attributes that Gunny Basilone  
lived his life by –  
courage, commitment and  
an undying love for his Corps.***

Donations for the scholarship may be sent to:

First Midwest Bank  
Account# 1302060502  
320 West Kimberly Road  
Davenport, IA 52306

EIN # is 30-0404212

Checks made payable to  
"The Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone Award"

## **Receive the newsletter online**

To read an electronic version of the *Spearhead News* instead of receiving a printed copy in the mail, please do the following:

1. E-mail your request to Editor Ray Elliott at [talespress@comcast.net](mailto:talespress@comcast.net).
2. Please be sure to include the following information: 1) your name; 2) e-mail address; 3) mailing address; and 4) phone number.

(Note: If you select this option, you are also giving permission to have e-mail reminders sent to you about your membership renewal.)

Those who opt for the electronic version will receive an e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the Web. *Spearhead News* issues published since Spring 2008 are currently archived at [www.talespress.com](http://www.talespress.com). Issues published prior to that are currently being collected for the archives.

Anyone having back issues to contribute to the archives, please send them to Ray Elliott, *Spearhead News* Editor, 2609 N. High Cross Road, Urbana, IL 61802-9643.

## **Fifth Marine Division Web site available**

About 11 years ago, Dean Keeley (F/2/26) and Edward E. Muich (F/2/26) contacted Yahoo about setting up a Web site for the Fifth Marine Division. In 1999, they established a site at [groups.yahoo.com/group/fifthmarinedivisionww2](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fifthmarinedivisionww2).

There are currently 160 members registered there. It costs nothing to be a member other than the few minutes it takes to fill out the membership profile. If you decide to join, they ask that you completely fill in the membership questionnaire.

Muich and Keeley manage the site. Their primary duty is to delete inappropriate content that doesn't pertain to the intent of the Web site.

Since the site was launched, there have been more than 5,000 messages posted, an average of more than 40 messages per month. There are 20 photo albums posted, as well.

For more information, contact Dean Keeley at [deankeeley@bellsouth.net](mailto:deankeeley@bellsouth.net) or Ed Muich at [fasted@il.net](mailto:fasted@il.net).

## **Other Upcoming Reunions**



### **Third Marine Division Association, Inc. Annual Family Reunion El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel San Antonio, Texas August 25-30, 2009**

Anyone who served in, was attached to, or served in support of the Third Marine Division at any time since it was formed on Sept. 16, 1942, is eligible and invited to attend.

For membership and reunion information, contact Jeffrey A. Dement, 23830 W. Ottawa St., Plainfield, IL 60544. Call (home) 815-436-3783, (cell) 815-354-4555. E-mail [jeffdement@aol.com](mailto:jeffdement@aol.com). Or visit the Third Marine Division Web site: [www.caltrap.com](http://www.caltrap.com).



### **17th Annual Reunion of Subic Bay Marines Best Western "Academy Hotel" Colorado Springs, Colo. August 27-30, 2009**

Anyone who served at the Marine Barracks, which includes Cubi Point and San Miguel, anytime during the past century is invited to attend. For membership and registration information, visit [www.subicbaymarines.com](http://www.subicbaymarines.com).

Sangley Point Marines are also eligible for membership in the Subic Bay Marines Association.

# NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME ABOARD!

GARRISON, Glen **ASSOCIATE**  
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HARRIS, Barbara Hansen **ASSOCIATE**  
2 Purple Plum, Littleton, CO 80127-2628  
RICHARDSON, Brad **ASSOCIATE**  
2322 Bearskin Lane, Monroe, SC 28110

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ALLEY, John R. WPNS-26  
BAILY, Robert B. A-1-27  
BALESTRIERI, Frank 5TH ENGR  
BELL, Kenneth F. B-5TH MED  
BLUMENSTEIN, Herman 5TH ENGR  
BOGGESS, Robert E. K-4-13  
BOUDREAU, James 5th JASCO  
BRISCOE, Charles E. L-4-13  
BUCKNER, Robert E-2-26  
BUSZKA, David HQ-5th SERV  
CAMP, William D. F-2-28  
CARLSON, Theodore C. B-1-27  
CHANDLER, Charles W. 5TH MED  
COLTRANE, John R. L-4-13  
COOK, Andrew J. HQ-5TH ENGR  
CUSHANICK, Edward C. WPNS-28  
DARRACOTT, Charles M. HQ-3-13  
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HAEFELE, Max E-2-28  
HEENAN, Francis HQ-2-27  
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HILTON, Bill G. A-1-26  
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JACKSON, Paul D. HQ-2-27  
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MICHAUX, Joseph E. A-1-26  
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O'MALLEY, Walter P. E-2-27  
ONSPAUGH, Robert J. C-1-13  
PERRY, Edward B. F-2-27  
PLEAKE, Verna C. HQ-2-27  
PONSTEIN, F. Jack D-2-28  
PONTISSO, Joseph C. HQ-11TH ENGR 3DMP  
RUFF, Charles E. A-1-28  
RUTAN, Bertram H. C-1-27  
SCHILLING, Marie ASSOCIATE  
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SEABECK, Frank E. HS-3-26  
SERIO, Charles A. 5TH PION  
SHAW Robert E. H-I-13  
SHOCK, William H. 5TH PION  
SLIFKA, Edward J. E-2-28  
SMITH, Owen A. M-4-13  
STEELE, Cecil T. E-2-28  
SWANSON, Richard E. I-3-26  
THOMA, Keith VAC1- 2ND BMBDISP  
THOMAS, Bill C. E-3-27  
WELCH, Preston E. C-1-28  
WHITE, Richard S. HS-26  
WILLIAMS, Thomas H-3-26  
WILSON, Marshall W. HQ-3-28  
WOLF, Raymond H. HS-4-13  
YEAGER, Pete I-3-26

**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 60<sup>TH</sup> REUNION  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 21 – SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2009  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Listed below are registration, tour and meal costs for the reunion.

- Please enter how many attendees will be participating in each event and the total costs for each.
- Send a **check or money order** payable to:  
**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
C/O IVAN HAMMOND  
PO BOX 828  
SANTA FE, TX 77517  
(Phone: 409.925.3914 home - or – 409.770.4249 cell)**
- Phone or credit cards will NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation.
- **All registration forms & payments must be received by mail on or before August 1, 2009.** 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.
- Refunds of activities will depend on vendor policy and/or resale of tickets.
- Cancellation must be received by September 1, 2009.
- **NOTE: NAME TAGS MUST BE WORN IN ORDER TO GET INTO ALL FUNCTIONS**

**AUGUST 1, 2009 IS THE CUT-OFF DATE**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PRICE	# OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
Tuesday September 21		<b>Registration - Members Only</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>		<b>\$15.00</b>
		Ladies Auxiliary Dues – Optional	\$10.00		\$
		Hospitality Room Fee	\$25.00		\$
Wednesday September 22	9:30 a.m.	Tour USS Texas (Meal served)	\$41.00		\$
Thursday September 23	9:00 a.m.	Tour Johnson Space Center/Space Center Houston (Meal served)	\$35.00		\$
Friday September 24	9:00 a.m.	Tour Houston Museum of Natural Science (Meal served)	\$48.00		\$
Saturday September 25	7:00 p.m.	Dinner at Marriott Hobby Airport Please make your selection(s): Filet Mignon # _____ Chicken # _____	\$45.00		\$

Please PRINT all information below that is applicable to you. TOTAL PAYABLE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ CO \_\_\_\_\_ BN \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ Theater of Operation \_\_\_\_\_

Battles \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse and/or Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Disability/Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_



# HOTEL REGISTRATION

## 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association

2009 Reunion



Tuesday, September 21 – Sunday, September 27, 2009

**CUT OFF DATE FOR RESERVATIONS  
AUGUST 22, 2009**

Houston Hobby Airport Marriott  
9100 Gulf Freeway  
Houston, TX 77017  
713.943.7979 phone  
713.943.1621 fax  
Contact: Monte Green

**PLEASE PRINT**  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ # IN PARTY \_\_\_\_\_  
ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ETA \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ROOM TYPE REQUESTED**       SMOKING       NON-SMOKING  
 SINGLE       DOUBLE  
                  \$88.00                    \$88.00

*Rates do not include applicable state and local taxes. Rates available 3 days prior to and 3 days after the reunion.*

DINERS CLUB     AMERICAN EXPRESS     DISCOVER     VISA     MASTERCARD  
CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS REQUESTED AFTER THE CUT-OFF DATE ARE SUBJECT TO SPACE AVAILABILITY; GROUP RATE NO LONGER AVAILABLE.**

**To guarantee your reservation, we require first night's deposit by either:**  
1. Mail an advance deposit in the form of a check or money order payable to "Marriott Hobby Airport" covering the first night's room and tax along with a copy of this form.  
2. Include your credit card number. We accept Diners Club, American Express, Discover, Visa and Mastercard.  
Deposits will be refunded only if cancellation notification is given at least 24 hours prior to arrival. Please fill in the information requested above and return this to the attention of Hotel Reservation Department.

### Complimentary Airport Shuttle

When you arrive at Hobby airport, go to the baggage claim area. Pick up courtesy phone and dial the number indicated as "Marriott Hobby Airport". Tell the operator your name and airline number and they will let you know the appropriate pick-up location.

### RV Parking

RV Parking is available at no charge on site. Additional RV related services are available at:  
Bob Jones RV Services - (713) 910-2949  
Hunt Kapital Kampers - (713) 946-0300



FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Ted Overgard, Secretary  
P.O. Box 1775  
Harrison, AR 72602-1775

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
FAYETTEVILLE, AR  
PERMIT NO. 1

Forwarding Service Requested

**5th Marine Division Association  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*All annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time.*

New member ( ) Renewal ( ) Associate ( )

Served with: \_\_\_\_\_  
Co. Bn. Reg.

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

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

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

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

Mail to:

5th Marine Division Association  
Ted Overgard, Secretary  
P.O. Box 1775  
Harrison, AR 72602-1775

Date of birth (for Life Membership): \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only

LGR		LF	
DB		NM	
CRD		FM	
ADS		NL	

Dues (please check):

( ) Annual ..... \$ 25.00

( ) Lifetime ..... \$ 150.00  
*age 64 and under*

( ) Lifetime ..... \$ 100.00  
*age 65 through 79*

( ) Lifetime ..... \$ 50.00  
*age 80 and over*

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

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

*(Make checks payable to: 5th Marine Division Assn.)*