



Support Our Survivors of Iwo Jima

February 19 – March 26, 1945

“uncommon valor was a common virtue”

SOSiwojima@yahoo.com

SOS NEWSLETTER #2
November 2009

(860) 291-9666

Message from the Founders

We were pleased and encouraged to receive many favorable comments regarding our first *Support Our Survivors of Iwo Jima Newsletter*. *Support Our Survivors* was formed in 2009 by Iwo Jima Survivor volunteers, Marianne Mihalyo and Gary Roy. The Mission of the *Support Our Survivors of Iwo Jima* is to offer help and support to all Iwo Jima Survivors as a way of showing respect and thanks for their military service and sacrifices. We offer our help in supporting their goals by fundraising and promoting public awareness and education of the WWII Battle of Iwo Jima and the veterans who fought and died there. We seek to unite those interested in WWII veterans by promoting this forum for communication. We also work to promote respect, recognition and thanks to all WWII Veterans and to keep alive the memory of their service. We work directly with the Survivors and have their full backing.

In This Issue:

Founders Message	1
Previous Events	1
Upcoming Events	16
News & Announcements	16
Featured Article	18
In Memorium	19
Thanks & Appreciation	20
Dates to Remember	21
Contact SOS	22

Editor: Marianne Mihalyo

Unless otherwise noted, all articles written by the founders.

We are inviting volunteers to join our group, meet and become friends with the Survivors and help them with their activities. There are many things you can do to help: Adopt-A-Survivor, organize events, write articles, make educational posters and signs, to name a few. This newsletter and the last one turned out to be long due to the amount of months they covered. It is our hope that with more help, this newsletter can be published more frequently. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading the articles, find the information interesting and inspire you to get involved. Feel free to contact us if you would like to join, have questions, or have ideas or thoughts to share.

Sincerely,
Marianne Mihalyo and Gary Roy

Previous Events

Survivors Speak to Students at Hall High School May 20, 2009

During May, Iwo Jima Survivors were invited to talk to students at Hall High School in West Hartford. Liz Divine, a teacher there, organized classes to meet with Survivors William Doran, USMC and Harry Rosenfeld, US Navy. It was a unique opportunity for the students to hear about the Battle first hand from Survivors who were there. The students listened carefully and later asked many questions. It was a rewarding experience for both the students and Survivors. The Survivors were later pleased to receive many letters from the students thanking them for their visit.



Harry Rosenfeld and William Doran speak to students at Hall High School.

Liz Divine, Harry Rosenfeld, Principle Dr. Slater and William Doran



Leathernecks of Connecticut Make Annual Trip to Iwo Jima Memorial May 2009



The Leathernecks Motorcycle Club from Connecticut made their annual ride to the National Iwo Jima Memorial Park during May this year. The Leathernecks are a regional group of motorcycle enthusiasts who are Marine veterans. They hold many fundraisers and charity rides to help others in need. The Leathernecks participated and helped at this years Flag Day Open House and VJ Day Candlelight Ceremony of Remembrance. The Iwo Jima Survivors are proud to have the Leathernecks as supporters and look forward towards their participation in additional future events. To learn more about the Leathernecks, go to www.CTleathernecks.com.

Photos courtesy of the Leathernecks





Newington Memorial Day Parade May 23, 2009

The Annual Newington Memorial Day Parade was held on May 25, 2009. The Iwo Jima Survivors previously marched in this parade many times. They did not participated the past few years but were happy to have the chance this year. This was possible due to the efforts of Michael Fox from the Newington VFW post 9836 and through the generous donation of the MaGee Company of West Hartford who provided and drove a decorated vehicle and trailer for the Survivors to ride in.



Survivor Bill Doran prepares to be interviewed by Michael Fox of NCTV



On the day of the parade, we were pleased to have Mr. John Danielewicz, U. S. Navy, Mr. Bill Doran, U.S. Marines and Mr. Harry Rosenfeld, U. S. Navy, able to be in the parade. All three veterans are Iwo Jima Survivors.

Iwo Jima Survivor volunteers, Gary Roy and Marianne Mihalyo, contacted area Survivors who were willing and able to be in the parade. Local TV station, NCTV, filmed a show to promote the Newington Parade. Mr. Bill Doran, a West Hartford Iwo Jima Survivor, was interviewed by Mr. Michael Fox and filmed at the Newington studio. Mr. Doran spoke of his military experiences on Iwo Jima and how it affected him then and now. He told both serious and lighthearted stories of his battle experiences. Mr. Doran also brought momentos and letters to explain and show. His first-hand accounts of what happened were interesting and informative.





There was a great public turnout to watch the parade and the weather was nice. It was apparent that the Survivors enjoyed their participation in the parade. The crowds also showed their respect and appreciation to the veterans. Boy Scouts from Newington volunteered to lead the Survivors in the parade and carry the Iwo Jima Survivor banner.

The float and trailer patriotically decorated and provided by MaGee Company of West Hartford.



Mr. Bill Doran, U.S. Marines and Mr. Harry Rosenfeld, U. S. Navy



Iwo Jima Survivor, Mr. John Danielewicz, rides in the float driven by Jason Leavitt of the MaGee Company. Mr. Danielewicz is a New Britain resident who served aboard the USS Essex during the Battle of Iwo Jima.



Iwo Jima Survivors, John Danielewicz, Bill Doran, Harry Rosenfeld and staff of the MaGee Company, Jason and Cory Leavitt and Reno, who donated use of their float so that the Survivors could participate in the parade.

Memorial Day Ceremony by the Marine Corps League Hardware City Division



The City of New Britain held Memorial Day ceremonies at several veterans monuments throughout the city. The Marine Corps League (MCL) Hardware City Division participated in each one. Marine Corps League member Greg Forbush and some of his fellow members made a stop at the National Iwo Jima Memorial to pay their respects to the servicemen killed on Iwo Jima. Marine Corps League members present at the ceremony were: Rivers McCalop, Donald Ostertag, Ray Burrington, Earl Herrington, Jack Truhan, Leo Fitzpatrick, Sam Beamon (State Commidant of the MCL) and Greg Forbush (Legislative Officer for the State of CT MCL). Also present were Auxilliary members Millie Herrington and Chris Forbush. They conducted a solemn ceremony to honor those KIA.



Part of the ceremonial speech is presented here:

“...We stand on these hallowed grounds with one mutual intent--to continue to memorialize and remember our fallen brothers-in-arms. Many in their teens and twenties and many who would not see their 21st birthday as they died, protecting and insuring the freedoms that we seniors hold sacred. We have a solemn obligation that this legacy of freedom and peace is not lost in our younger generations. It is important that the history and tradition of Iwo Jima is recited so that every generation will know and appreciate what happened 64 years ago and will understand why the participant's place in history is so secure...”

Please contact us if you would like a copy of the entire ceremonial speech given by Marine Corp League member Greg Forbush,

Survivors toll bell, remember sacrifices at Iwo Jima May 30, 2009

This article is a reprint from the New Britain Herald. Photos by Marianne Mihalyo.

Saturday, May 30, 2009 10:12 PM EDT
By JENNIFER ABEL, Staff writer

NEWINGTON — The Battle of Iwo Jima was over 64 years ago, and the number of remaining survivors grows smaller each year. On Saturday afternoon a handful of those survivors assembled for a memorial service at the Iwo Jima Survivors Memorial Park, which straddles the line between Newington and New Britain.

Joseph Sokoloski, a sergeant with the Connecticut National Guard, was one of the guardsmen at the ceremony directing people to parking spaces and helping disabled veterans reach their seats.

“I’ve done this every year except the year I was deployed overseas,” he said. “There used to be a lot more survivors. Twelve, 14 years ago when we started, there were a lot more people here. They’d park up and down the street.”

About a hundred people were at Saturday’s ceremony. One of them was Win Gentile, whose late husband, George, founded and designed the memorial park, which opened in 1995.

George Gentile’s old friend John Conant, a fellow Iwo Jima veteran, is now president of the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation, and was Saturday’s master of ceremonies. Conant stood at a temporary podium set up next to the monument’s eternal flame.



The main feature of the memorial is an enormous block of polished black granite, inscribed with the names of every Connecticut man who died at Iwo Jima. Atop the granite block is a statue of the iconic “flag raising at Iwo Jima” photograph; the men are statues but the flag is real.

Pat Whelan of Glastonbury, clad in Scottish regalia, played the bagpipes, including a mournful version of the Marine Corps Hymn while four Marines in dress uniforms presented the colors at the beginning of the ceremony.



“I would like to thank the survivors,” Conant said, and asked the survivors to stand. Only six people stood in the front row: four elderly men and two women. One of the men, E. Gage Hotaling, later came forward to stand next to the podium, where a little brass bell stood on a pillar.



Rev. E. Gage Hotaling



Evelyn Wisner



William Wood

Conant somberly read out the names of every Connecticut man who died on Iwo Jima. After each name, Hotaling rang the bell.

Hotaling was an Army chaplain on Iwo Jima, and had the unpleasant task of burying the bodies of almost 2,000 fallen Americans, including the majority of those from Connecticut. Perhaps he personally remembered some of those names for whom he tolled the bell.

After that somber recitation, Conant spoke again to the crowd.



“The raising of the flag was one of the most reproduced photographs in history,” he said. But many people thought it happened at the end of the battle, which wasn’t the case. “The flag raising marked the beginning of more than 28 days of living and dying hell,” Conant said. He also dismissed the notion that the flag-raising was a symbol of glory.

“For the men at Iwo Jima there was no glory. If you were in a car accident where your entire family perished, would you get out of the car and celebrate that you’re still alive? I doubt it ... glory was not the motivation of this monument.

The seeds were grief, pain and [survivor’s] guilt.”

Jennifer Abel can be reached at jabel@ctcentral.com or by calling (860) 225-4601, ext. 306.

URL: <http://www.newbritainherald.com/articles/2009/05/30/news/doc4a21e5835592b890601761.prt>

© 2009 newbritainherald.com, a Journal Register Property

New Britain Memorial Day Parade May 30, 2009



Iwo Jima Survivor, John Danielewicz, was the Grand Marshal of this year's New Britain Memorial Day parade. He was escorted in a restored antique vehicle provided by Schaller. John is a New Britain native who served in the Navy during WWII aboard the U.S.S. Essex. His ship survived numerous kamikaze attacks and a typhoon in the China Sea. John, a Gunners Mate, received the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation and eight other medals. John is a member of the Iwo Jima Survivors Association. He is 91 years old.



Destroyer Escorts Hold DE-Day Program June 7, 2009

The Connecticut Chapter of the Destroyer-Escort Sailors Association, DESA, held their DE-Day ceremony at the National Iwo Jima Memorial on Sunday, June 7, 2009. The Master of Ceremonies was Nicholas Palermo, DESA Officer and member of the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation. Annette Palermo, President of the Women's Auxiliary, spoke on their behalf.

Vincent Thomas, USNR Iwo Jima Survivor, spoke about the National Iwo Jima Memorial.





Elliot Glassman, USN Iwo Jima Survivor, gave a tribute to Destroyer Escort and Escort Sailors.

Raymond Rivard read and presented Governor Rells DE-Day Proclamation to the Conn-DESA Skipper, Harry Wheeler. Raymond Rivard is a USMC Korean War Veteran and past president of the Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation.



The Destroyer Escort Roll of Honor contains the names of 1,304 shipmates who gave their lives while attached to Destroyer Escorts represented on 117 ships. DESA was founded in 1992 and has 36 chapters across the country. DESA works to meet the needs of the members and to keep alive the memory of the Destroyer Escorts. We are proud and honored that DESA chose to hold their ceremony at the Memorial Park.

Raymond Rivard, Keynote speaker, explained the formation of the Iwo Jima Memorial Park and Monument.

Flag Day Open House June 13, 2009

Connecticut Open House Day was observed throughout the state on June 13th. It is a day when many attractions open their doors to visitors for free or at discounted prices. This was the first year the Iwo Jima Survivors participated. Visitors were invited to the National Iwo Jima Memorial park to learn about the Battle of Iwo Jima, the Memorial Park, history, flag etiquette, WWII memorabilia and meet and speak with Survivors.

We were proud to have as our honored guest, Dr. Linda Schwartz, CT Dept of Veterans Affairs Commissioner. She spoke about the veterans in CT and the Iwo Jima Survivors specifically. It was a heartfelt, moving speech. Also present were the Marines from Charlie Company in Plainville. They spoke about how the Marines from Iwo Jima are an inspiration to them. Survivor, Daniel Vece also spoke to the crowd and introduced the Commissioner while Ray Rivard introduced the Marines.



There were many exciting events going on. The Marine Corps League gave a wonderful demonstration of flag etiquette. Their program is called *Forever Wave*. Those who watched the program learned about the history of our country's flag, the proper way to display the flag, how to fold the flag and what each fold means.



Hardware City Detachment Marine Corps league present the Forever Wave demonstration.



On display were documents and posters explaining different aspects of the battle and current and historical photos and Survivor activities.

The Leathernecks Motorcycle Club arrived on their bikes and were present to participate and show their support. The Survivors really enjoyed having them there.



Mark Adamski and his father from the Fleet Marine Force put together a fantastic recreation of a military camp from the Island of Iwo Jima. They had a large military tent containing machine guns, military gear, supplies, communication radios and actual memorabilia from the battle. They were on hand to explain and demonstrate those items and answer questions.



The event organizers wish to give a huge thank you to volunteers for all their hard work. Robin Comeau and her son worked tirelessly to set up and take down tables, chairs, displays and did whatever was needed throughout the day. We can't thank them enough for all they did. We are also thankful to the Marines who helped set up and to Janice Mercier for greeting guests and distributing the guest book. A big thank you goes to Suburban Sanitation for providing a bathroom. They have been generous, loyal supporters for many years. Eric Drury of EZ Party Rentals provided chairs, tables and a large canopy at discounted prices. The Friends of Center Cemetery of East Hartford kindly provided some of the chairs and tables.



Volunteers, Robin Comeau and her son pose with Survivors Joe Roman and Phil Mongillo.



Also available was information regarding the *Veterans History Project* and the *CCSU Scholarship Fund*. Visitors were encouraged to decorate a gift bag for *Give2theTroops*, which will be filled with useful items to send to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Eric Drury provided a tent, tables and chairs. His grandfather was a WWII veteran.



The day was enjoyed by everyone who visited and the Survivors look forward to sponsoring another Open House next year with many more activities.

Survivors attend the Open House activities



Annual July 4th Parade in Madison July 4, 2009

For as long as anyone can remember, the Iwo Jima Survivors have been marching in the 4th of July parade in Madison CT. Until recently, they carried their large flag along the parade route. It became a tradition that the spectators looked forward to. All along the route, people would stand and cheer, salute and give thanks for their service. Afterward, Survivor Daniel Vece of Clinton would invite the Survivors to his house for a spectacular picnic. His family is always such gracious hosts cooking up delicious snacks and meals for everyone present.

Participating in this years parade were Charlie Gellately, Phil Mongillo, Daniel Vece, George Abel, and Vincent Thomas. Also joining them were Foundation members John Hanley, Ray Rivard and Mark Adamski who came dressed in his military uniform. Additional servicemen were there to help and support the survivors in the parade. Volunteers Marianne Mihalyo, Gary Roy and Bob Garrey aided the survivors and took photos.



Charlie Gellately and Phil Mongillo carry the banner while John Hanley, Mark Adamski and Ray Rivard follow behind



Riding in the float were Vincent Thomas, Daniel Vece and George Abel



Vincent Thomas, George Abel and Phil Mongillo share food and friendship at Daniel Vece's (standing) house in Clinton.



Survivors wave to the parade watchers along the route.

Perennial Plant Sale July 11, 2009

A perennial plant sale was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roy of East Windsor, the parents of Survivor volunteer, Gary Roy. Gary and Marianne Mihalyo, another volunteer, collected and grew many perennial flowers since last summer in preparation of the sale. Also for sale were many kinds of planters and a wide variety of picture frames. These were kindly donated by Jane Misiek of East Hartford. Perennials for sale included rose of sharon, sedum, phlox, yucca, heliopsis, balloon flower, obedient plant, aloe, gayfeather, iris, candytuft, cupids dart, lilies of the valley and others. Gary and Marianne raised \$175 from the plant sale, the proceeds of which will go to the Iwo Jima Survivors Association. The Survivors will use this for publication of their Survivors Journal and student scholarships.



Survivor, Marty Samowitz, visits Connecticut July 26, 2009

Martin Samowicz is an Iwo Jima Survivor presently living in Florida. He and his wife, Paulette, and crew sailed up the coast from Longboat Key, Florida. They made a stop at the Clinton marina to visit with fellow members of the Iwo Jima Survivors Association. Martin "Marty" Samowicz was a Navy man who landed on Iwo Jima on the day of invasion. He and his wife own a 95-foot yacht named *Footloose*.



Survivors present (L to R): George Abel, Sam Girasuolo, Phil Mongillo, Paulette and Marty Samowitz, Charlie Gellately, Vincent Thomas and Daniel Vece.



Marty's yacht named "Footloose"

VJ Day Candlelight Ceremony of Remembrance Aug 15, 2009

To honor those servicemen killed during the battle on Iwo Jima, a Candlelight Ceremony of Remembrance was held at the National Iwo Jima Memorial Park. This was the first ceremony of its kind at the monument and took place on VJ Day, August 15, 2009. Over 120 people attended the ceremony, which also honored all those KIA, MIA or veterans from any branch who served in the Armed Forces. Mr. Pat Whelan played music on his bagpipes for the crowd before the ceremony began.

Marianne Mihalyo welcomed guests and explained what VJ Day means and how our memorial honors those who served or were killed in WWII.



The ceremony proceeded with an invocation given by Reverend E. Gage Hotaling, a Chaplain who served during the battle of Iwo Jima.



John Flukinger, U.S. Marines, Iwo Jima Survivor

John Flukinger, a Survivor who served in the Marines 4th Division, spoke to the crowd about his time on Iwo Jima. His first-hand account of battle experiences taught us about what these men had gone through. Many veterans fought bravely despite the horrific conditions they endured. As many as one third of the Marines killed during WWII, were killed on Iwo Jima.

Reverend E. Gage Hotaling (right) gives the invocation.





Dr. John Conant presents a Proclamation from Newington Mayor Jeff Wright to Sam Girsuolo, Iwo Jima Survivors Association President.



After a moment of silence, Survivors read the names of their comrades KIA and toll a bell for each. There were 100 men from Connecticut that lost their lives during the battle.



Everyone present was invited to light their candles while Mr. Pat Whelan played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. After reading the names of the 100 KIA, the readings proceeded with the names of Survivors who have since passed on. This was followed by other WWII servicemen who were KIA or died after the war.

Finally, the public was invited to honor any veteran or KIA from any branch of service who served in the armed forces. Family and friends stepped forward to announce the name of their loved one and toll the bell for each.



After all names were read, Rev. Hotaling gave a benediction in remembrance of all servicemen. 1st SGT Henry J. Raymond Jr. of the Military Honor Guard of Bristol played taps followed by a rifle volley. At the conclusion, bagpipe music was once again played by Mr. Pat Whelan.

The ceremony was very emotional for those present. We thank the public for attending and hope to make this an annual ceremony.

Upcoming Events

** Some events are proposed ideas, please contact us for more details and updates.*

- November 11 **Veterans Day Ceremony**
- December 12 **National Iwo Jima Memorial Historical Foundation meeting**
Lucy Robbins Wells Library, Newington. 10:15 a.m.
All members are STRONGLY encouraged to attend.
- February 2010 **65th Anniversary of the Historic Flag Raising ***

News & Announcements

Adopt-A-Survivor Program

Many Survivors are shut in, have trouble getting around or would like someone to talk to and let them know we appreciate their service. We are looking for volunteers to “adopt” a Survivor in their local area. Volunteers would keep in touch with the survivor through phone calls, visits or offer to give them a ride to Survivor events. If you would like to “adopt” a Survivor, please contact Marianne to be matched up with someone from your area.

Iwo Jima Survivors Journal

For many years the Iwo Jima Survivors have been publishing a news journal. It is filled with many historic photos, letters, and personal stories of servicemen who fought on Iwo Jima. The Journal is enjoyed by veterans and has received many favorable comments. It is sent to members all over the country and beyond. Anyone is welcome to subscribe to it. There are 3-4 issues each year and the current editor is Vincent Thomas, an Iwo Jima Survivor. If you would like more information, contact Mr. Thomas at VincentThomas@comcast.net or call 203-488-7683.

Military Honor Guard



[Military Honor Guard of Bristol](#)

1st SGT Henry J. Raymond Jr. served in the Army during WWII and continued to serve until his retirement at age 60. At age 80 he left retirement to organize and form the military honor guard and is active with the American Legion of Bristol. Raymond says “Every veteran is entitled to a military funeral. That’s what we provide”. The honor guard provides a three-gun salute for any honorably discharged veteran. He also aids veterans in arranging for the government benefits they are entitled to. The honor guard



[1st SGT Henry J. Raymond Jr.](#)

graciously provided the rifle salute and taps at the Survivors Candlelight Ceremony on August 15, 2009. If you would like to request military honor guard services or want more information go to www.veteranscouncilBrCT.org.

Veterans History Project

The Veterans History Project was created in 2000, when the U.S. Congress voted unanimously to preserve and archive the oral histories of men and women who have served in any of our country's wars or any civilian who supported the war effort. In September 2005, CCSU became an archive partner with the Library of Congress. The University is privileged to collect and preserve the oral histories, photographs and documents of our country's veterans. Trained volunteers and history students conduct interviews at CCSU or travel to veterans' homes. All Iwo Jima Survivors and other veterans are encouraged to participate in this worthy project. If you would like to be interviewed, please contact Eileen Hurst at (860) 832-2976 or email hursteim@ccsu.edu to schedule an appointment. To learn more about the CCSU Veterans History Project go to <http://www.ccsu.edu/vhp>. If you live outside the greater Hartford area and would still like to participate, please view the national Veterans History Project web site at <http://www.loc.gov/vets/>



Veterans Memorial Theatre Company

This theater company was formed by and about Veterans and their experiences. The purpose of the Company is to honor all veterans by staging theatrical productions, which give voice to their experiences, the effects on them, their families and on the world around them. Membership in the Company is open to everyone, as there is probably not one family that has not included a veteran. For further information, please call (860) 229-8034 or email vetstheatre@snet.net. The Theatre Company will be putting on another performance in the spring.

Give To The Troops

Give2TheTroops is a nonprofit patriotic organization which supports deployed and wounded troops. Their mission is "To support the physical, moral, and spiritual health of America's armed forces in combat zones around the world through letters and packages prepared and shipped by caring volunteers". Their main office is in Rocky Hill, CT. To find out how you can help, call 888-876-6775, or email info@Give2TheTroops.org. You can also visit their web site at www.Give2TheTroops.org.

CCSU Scholarship for Outstanding Student Veteran and Veteran Memorial

CCSU is strengthening its support for veterans. They created a Veterans Drop-In Center, completed a "needs assessment" for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, built a Veterans Memorial Garden on campus and have a special scholarship fund to honor a student veteran with the CCSU Student Veteran Excellence Award. They are looking for financial support for these programs. For more donation information contact Laura Marchese of CCSU at (860) 832-2554.

Help is needed – looking for fellow servicemen



Julie Washburn is looking for information about her grandfather, Frances W. Espelin. She would like to hear from anyone who might have known or served with him. He was in the Battle of Iwo Jima as part of the Coast Guard aboard the USS Bayfield. Here is a reprint of a news article from the Waterbury Republican American, which wrote about him sometime in the mid 1940's. Please contact us to get a message to her.

"Iwo Jima was the toughest battle I have been in to date," Coast Guardsman Francis W. Espelin, S1C, has written to his wife, Mrs. Catherine Espelin, 295 North Main St.

"Saw the cemetery that was dedicated to the Marines who suffered such heavy casualties trying to take the island," wrote the Coast Guardsman who entered the service 33 months ago.

Veteran of Normandy and Southern France invasions, Espelin serves with the deck force and the ship's gun crew.

He also has seen service in the Mediterranean theater, Africa, Italy, England and the Battle of Eniwetok. He saw service in Pearl Harbor, Panama and Honolulu.

His wife, the former Catherine Nolan, has two brothers in the Army, Sgt. Thomas Nolan, who has been in the service 24 months and is now in England; Sgt. Joseph, in the service 38 months, now in the Philippines.

Wreaths Across America

This year marks the 18th year that Wreaths Across America will be placing holiday wreaths on veterans graves. In Connecticut, wreaths will be placed at the veterans cemeteries in Middletown, Rocky Hill and Darien. Each veteran deserves to be honored with a wreath this holiday season. To find out how you can sponsor a wreath, contact CTDAR State Treasurer, Fran Into, 16 Highland Green, Cromwell, CT 06416. You may also view their web site at www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Featured Article

In each SOS Newsletter, we will be featuring an article written by or about a member of the Iwo Jima Survivors, battle or its supporters. Please contact us if you would like to submit an article.

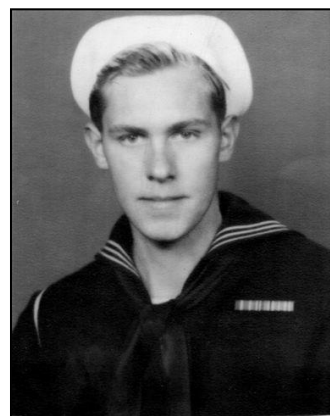
REMEMBRANCE OF IWO JIMA MEMORIAL IN CT

By Edward MacDonald

On July 15, 2009, first time visitors to the Memorial were the MacDonalds, Edward Senior and Edward Junior. Edward Senior carried a business card of Fred Pucci who served on the USS Doyen APA1 with Ed at the invasion of Guam. Too bad they missed meeting again by a few months as Pucci passed away in May. May he rest in peace.

MacDonald had made the one invasion on the Doyen then volunteered off and joined the try outs for underwater demolition. Making the team was a very physical and mental triumph. Our duties involved swimming, various types of explosives, wearing the equipment available at that time which consisted of swim trunks, face mask, swim fins, knife, small slate and pencil and also sand shoes.

After the terrible loss of life at the Tarawa invasion, the Underwater Demolition Teams came into being. Men of the U.S. Navy were asked to volunteer for rugged training to swim reconnaissance to a beach before the troops invaded, locating various obstacles and hazards and if necessary destroying them and making the landing more knowledgeable.



Edward MacDonald, U. S. Navy

After the invasion of Linguayan Gulf in the Phillipines, we got ready for Iwo Jima on the morning of February 17, 1945, "D'Day" minus two, we boarded our small landing craft and headed toward the beach. Our goal was to check for obstacles, mines and depth of water. All this... while under heavy rifle, machine gun and mortar fire. The noise even under water was deafening. The 10 swimmers of my platoon fortunately returned to our ship safely. Losses from the LCL (G) covering for us were extra heavy.

Ed Senior had Connecticut ties. Before joining the U.S. Navy, he lived for a while in Fairfield, Connecticut and worked at the Alcoa Plant.

The consensus of the MacDonalds' was that the Iwo Memorial in Connecticut was a work of art and a worthy memorial of that memorable occasion.

Mr. Edward MacDonald during his visit to the Memorial.
 photos by Edward MacDonald, Jr.



It is with great sadness that we report, since this article was written, Edward MacDonald Sr. passed away on November 28, 2009.

Do You Know:
What was the U.S. code name for the invasion of Iwo Jima in 1945?
 Answer on page 21

In Memorium

Thomas P. Sheridan	† Nov 24, 2008	† Navy
John F. Wortcheck	† Dec 25, 2008	† Marine
Casimer D. Skowronski	† Jan 4, 2009	† Army
Nicholas P. Greci	† Feb 5, 2009	† Coast Guard
Paul J. Coen	† Feb 10, 2009	† Army
Fred Pucci	† May 5, 2009	† Navy
Franklin G. Miller	† May 15, 2009	† Navy
Thomas J. Galick	† May 18, 2009	† Marine
James E. Ettinger	† May 21, 2009	† Marine
Stanley F. Barnett	† Aug 1, 2009	† Marine
James Boyle	† Aug 4, 2009	† Marine
Edward MacDonald	† Nov 28, 2009	† Navy



***Our Condolences go out to the families and loved ones
 as we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.***



Historic Photograph

A few hours after the U. S. Marines gained a foothold on the island, war supplies are being unloaded from Coast Guard and U. S. Navy landing crafts onto the shores of Iwo Jima.

February 1945
(AP photo)

★ ★ ★ ★ THANKS & APPRECIATION ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ [Newington VFW Post 9836](#) for donating a spectacular wreath for the flag raising anniversary ceremony in February and support for the Earth Day Clean Up with the help of Michael Fox.
- ★ [The Marines from the Marine Reserve Center of Plainville Charlie Company](#) who did a tremendous job helping with the Flag Day Open House and other events and ceremonies this year.
- ★ [Marine Corps League](#) for providing assistance in the events and for their impressive and educational demonstration at the Open House with their Forever Wave program.
- ★ [The New Britain Herald, Hartford Courant, Channel 61 Fox News and WDRG Radio](#) for the splendid stories and publicity they did regarding our events.
- ★ [Mr. Pat Whelan](#) for providing live bagpipe music at the Flag Raising Anniversary, Memorial Day, Candlelight Ceremony and Veterans Day.
- ★ [Mr. Michael Manning](#) for playing Taps at the Flag Raising Anniversary, Memorial Day and Veterans Day Ceremony
- ★ [Marty and Paulette Samowitz](#) for hosting the visit to their yacht.
- ★ [Mayor Jeff Wright of Newington](#) for preparing a Proclamation declaring the Iwo Jima Survivors VJ Day Candlelight Ceremony of Remembrance August 15, 2009.
- ★ [Leatherneck Motorcycle Club](#) for support, assistance and participation at this years events.
- ★ [Mark Adamski](#) and the Fleet Marine Force for their fantastic and interesting replica and demonstration of an Iwo Jima Marine Camp, which they created at the Flag Day Open House.
- ★ [1st SGT Henry J. Raymond Jr](#) and his Military Honor Guard of Bristol for the rifle salute and taps presentation at the Candlelight Ceremony.

- ★ [Dr. Linda Schwartz](#) for being guest speaker at the Open House
- ★ [Friends of Center Cemetery](#) for donating tables and chairs to be used at the Flag Day Open House.
- ★ [Jane Misiek](#) for donation of frames and planters to be sold at the Perennial Sale.
- ★ [And Especially The Iwo Jima Survivors](#) who planned and participated in the ceremonies and events at the Memorial Park this year.
- ★ **All the Volunteers who helped plan or came to help at our events.**

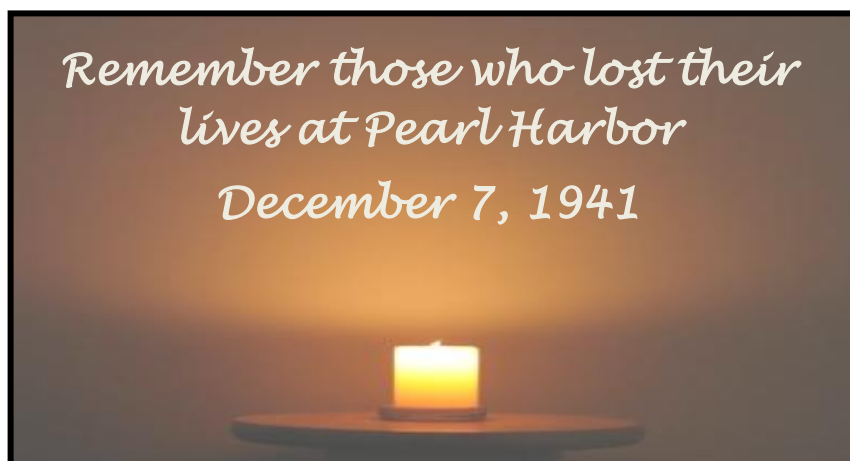
**The Following Companies Donated Materials or Services.
Please Show Your Appreciation by Patronizing Their Business:**

- ★ [Suburban Sanitation](#) for providing a portable comfort station for the Earth Day Clean Up, Open House and Candlelight Ceremony.
- ★ [McGee Company](#) for decorating, providing and driving a float and signage so that Survivors could be in the Newington Memorial Day Parade. www.MageeCompanies.com
- ★ [EZ Party Rentals](#) for providing extra tables and chairs for the events.

Dates to Remember

November 11th Veteran's Day

December 7th 68th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor



Answer:
Operation Detachment

Contacts and Information

Support Our Survivors of Iwo Jima
(860) 291-9666
SOSiwojima@yahoo.com

- ★ Please contact Marianne or Gary with any comments or corrections.
 - ★ Contact us if you would like to submit ideas or articles.
 - ★ The next SOS Newsletter will be sent early 2010.
- ★ You have received this newsletter because you may be interested in Iwo Jima Survivor Association issues.
 - ★ If you know of anyone who would also like to receive it, please tell them to contact us.
 - ★ If you would like to be removed from our email list, kindly let us know.

Copyrite 2009 © Unless otherwise noted, all information and photos are the property of **Support Our Survivors of Iwo Jima** and are not to be copied or reproduced without written permission.

*Merry Christmas
to all and best wishes for
a safe and happy New Year!*