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The Marine Corps Heritage Center Story

# Legacy

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THE MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS HERITAGE CENTER IS TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE ALL MARINES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, AND ESPECIALLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CAN COME TO VIEW THE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT NATION THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES.



## IWO JIMA VETERANS HONORED AT 60TH ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

Some 150 surviving Iwo Jima combat veterans were honored in a ceremony at Quantico, Virginia, on February 18, 2005, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the legendary landing. The ceremony, hosted by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, was one of a series of events held in Washington, D.C. that weekend in honor of the Iwo Jima veterans.

Dignitaries in attendance at the ceremony included Gen Charles C. Krulak, USMC (Ret), the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps; LtGen Pete Osmond, USMC, representing the current Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Michael Hagee; and members of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Founders' Group and Board of Directors.

The event's principal speaker, Gen Krulak, focused on the quality of selflessness that was abundantly evident among brothers in arms during the horrific struggle for Iwo Jima. Krulak told how one of the flag raisers, Navy Corpsman John Bradley, having given his last drop of water to a dying Marine while ascending Mount Suribachi, went thirsty for a full day as a consequence. In Krulak's metaphor, "pass the water" not only exemplifies the ethos of selflessness that prevailed at Iwo Jima but also stands for the culture of self-sacrifice dear to all Marines. Bradley's empty water canteen is a little-noted feature of Felix de Weldon's Marine Corps War Memorial sculpture at Arlington, Virginia.

Following Krulak's remarks, active duty Marines in period uniforms ascended the stage and conducted a reenactment of the Iwo Jima flag raising. A narrator guided the audience through key moments of the action. The 36-day battle for Iwo Jima was the costliest in Marine Corps history with some 6,800 Marines killed and 18,000 wounded. Only about 200 men of the 27,000-strong Japanese garrison defending the island survived.

In his introduction, Foundation president LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret), called for a moment of silence in memory of the fallen. He paid homage to the service of the Iwo Jima veterans, noting, "...all that we revere in being our country's 'First to Fight' is forever captured in the flag raising atop Mount Suribachi. And soon, it will similarly be forever captured with the impressive 210-foot



The Iwo Jima 60th anniversary ceremony included a reenactment of the flag raising atop Mount Suribachi.

mast soaring high above the Central Gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps."

The National Museum, now under construction at Quantico, draws as its primary architectural inspiration the famed flag raising of February 23, 1945. The building's design concept evokes the iconic imagery captured in Joe Rosenthal's pictures and de Weldon's sculpture of the War Memorial. The central structural beam of the National Museum will be set at the same angle as the flag pole in the War Memorial sculpture.

National Museum construction continues apace, and is now roughly 35 percent complete. The next major construction milestone is the raising of the main structural beam, scheduled to occur during March 2005. Once the mast is raised, the glass canopy of the Museum structure will be completed and internal fabrication and finish work will commence.

The presence of the Iwo veterans in the vicinity of the new Marine Corps Heritage Center and National Museum of the Marine Corps provided a powerful symbolic connection between the past and present of the Corps. Active duty Marines at the ceremony spontaneously sought out individual Iwo Jima veterans to thank them for their service and to pay their respects. The sentiments were reciprocated, with Iwo veterans noting the combat service of today's generation of Marines in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. ★



## CRENSHAW GIVES \$1.5 MILLION

Carlton B. Crenshaw has made a leadership gift of \$1.5 million toward construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center and National Museum of the Marine Corps. Crenshaw, recently retired executive vice president and chief financial officer of Anteon Corporation (Fairfax, Virginia), has been a member of the project's Founders' Group since 2003.

Crenshaw's gift announcement emphasized his high regard for his Marine Corps service: "Serving in the Marines has meant a great deal to me, personally and professionally. From core values that are never forgotten, to our abiding camaraderie and esprit de corps, being a Marine is a transformational, life-altering experience. I am truly privileged to help build a place where the American public can come to learn about our special culture and where our values will be permanently affirmed."

Having graduated from Southern Methodist University, Crenshaw served as a Marine Corps officer from 1966-1969, attaining the rank of Captain. He saw combat action in Vietnam, serving in the Con Thien "meatgrinder" and at Hill 881S near Khe Sanh. The latter is the featured subject of the "immersion" component of the Vietnam War era gallery within the National Museum.

Following his Marine service, Crenshaw began a distinguished business career that included service in senior positions of several major companies. He served as Treasurer of Sperry Corporation, and as chief financial officer at Software AG Systems and Orbital Sciences Corporation. His career culminated with seven years of service at Anteon Corporation, a New York Stock Exchange company, during which time the company experienced eight-fold growth.

In recognizing Crenshaw's gift, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation president LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret) said: "Carlton's leadership exemplifies all that is special about the culture of the Corps. We did not have to ask Carlton to join this cause—he came to us. Ever since, we have come to rely on his excellent guidance and philanthropic generosity. I am deeply grateful to Carlton, and his wife, Linda, for their outstanding stewardship of our cause."

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