

## **And Long May It Wave...**

One of the most memorable moments of World War II was Joe Rosenthal's picture of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima. The picture became history, and the historic moment was memorialized in the United States Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery--the Iwo Jima Memorial. The Iwo Memorial is one of the few places where, by Presidential Proclamation, our country's flag flies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In July, 2007, James P. Donovan (USMC, 1964-1968) was visiting the Iwo Memorial. As a former member of the Ceremonial Guard Company at Marine Barracks 8<sup>th</sup> & Eye, Jim had been there many times before, as part of the Sunset Parade. This former enlisted Marine became aware of a situation involving the Memorial's flag. He made a series of telephone calls, and e-mails to ensure that the Iwo Memorial was always proudly flying a clean, crisp, ceremonial flag. This dedicated former 8<sup>th</sup> & Eye Marine's efforts were successful.

In September, 2007, Jim, Michael McGowan, a former Drill Team platoon commander, and now a successful financial executive in Maryland, and Robert Manchester, a former Drill Team member and now lawyer and judge in Oklahoma, met with the National Park Service Superintendent for the George Washington Memorial Parkway, his staff, the new Commanding Officer of Headquarters Battalion, Henderson Hall, his staff, and a command representative from Marine Barracks Eighth & Eye. The group met to discuss the flag situation. NPS was included because they are the organization charged with the upkeep and maintenance of national monuments, including the Iwo Memorial.

In November, 2007, The United States Marine Corps War Memorial Flag Detail, Inc. (“Iwo Flags”) was formed. This non-profit organization is dedicated to ensuring that the Iwo Memorial is never without a proper flag. The Corps and NPS embraced the idea and welcomed the organization’s participation.

A board of directors for Iwo Flags was quickly and carefully assembled. The Board’s membership is a roll call of dedicated Marines—all of whom served at 8<sup>th</sup> & Eye and participated in ceremonies at the Iwo Memorial. The founding directors are:

**James P. Donovan, Waynesboro, VA**

**Col Michael J. McGowan, USMC (Ret), New Market, MD**

**M/GySgt Robert B. Wray, USMC (Ret), Lakeside, CA**

**Col Sheldon J. Bathurst, USMC (Ret), Girard, IL**

**Col John B. Donovan, USMC (Ret), Gettysburg, PA**

**Major William F. Lee, USMC (Ret), Fairview, TX**

**Robert W. Scofield, Afton, TN**

**Robert A. Manchester, III, Oklahoma City, OK**

The organization is very proud of the fact that the following have agreed to serve as Honorary Directors of Iwo Flags:

**Lt/Gen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret) and Senator Charles Robb, Lt/Col, USMC (Ret)**

A concerned corporal stepped forward and ensured that one of the Corps’ most important icons would be properly and permanently commemorated. Iwo Flags was unfurled when, on December 7, 2007, Jim Donovan presented the first flag to NPS.

Membership in Iwo Flags is open to anyone honorably discharged from the USMC or who served as a corpsman with the USN and received an honorable discharge, or anyone presently on active duty with the USMC or an active reserve component of the Corps. Membership is \$25.00 per year. If you are interested in purchasing a flag, the cost is \$275.00 and, after it has flown over the Memorial, the flag will be returned to you with a letter of authentication—and significant thanks.

**To become a member or for additional information, please contact [DevilDog@IwoFlags.org](mailto:DevilDog@IwoFlags.org), or, within the next month you can go to the Iwo Flags website at [www.IwoFlags.org](http://www.IwoFlags.org), which is presently under construction.**