

ALWAYS FAITHFUL

JUNE 26, 1920

A SPECIAL CHARLES LINDBERG EDITION

JUNE 24, 2007

News and Reflections by and for Marines — and other patriotic Americans

FROM YOUR EDITOR

(The message I sent out.)

Greetings Marines and other dear friends:

I am very sorry to report that an American and Marine icon and a good friend has passed on just short of his 87th birthday.

Charles "Chuck" Lindberg passed away around 1:00 AM on Sunday with his family at his hospital bedside. He struggled to stay with us but the pain and deterioration of his kidneys took the final toll.

He will be sadly missed by many who heard of and witnessed his exploits on Iwo Jima and his involvement in raising "Old Glory" over Japanese territory for the first time ever - on February 23rd, 1945.

Now Charles Lindberg belongs to history and he has joined his fellow Marines to share the task of "Guarding the Streets of Heaven!"

May God continue blessing you Charles and I thank God that I was blessed to have you as a friend.

Semper Fidelis good buddy.

Always Faithful editor **Kale Danberg**

What can I say about Chuck? There are many accolades. The Charles Lindberg I knew was always willing to share the Iwo Jima story with school children and other groups whenever his health would allow.

He had a good sense of humor—he knew how to laugh and he was always ready to share with others. He was a great Marine all of his life! It is a blessing to have known him.

I have had the pleasure of seeing the excitement on the faces of people who met "Chuck" and it especially pleased me to see that excitement on the faces of young Marines when they first met this Marine Icon.

It also is a pleasure to know his wife Violette Lindberg who was by his side, helping him, all along the way. And Vi is an angel because she allowed her home to be a Marine-Lindberg museum.

On June 6th I had the pleasure of



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witnessing the unveiling of the name of a new training building for electricians in St. Michael, MN. It is a beautiful building and it's named "The Charles W. "Chuck" Lindberg JATC Electrical Training Center.

When the covering over his name was unfurled I witnessed the humbleness, the humility, the surprise and the pleasure on Chuck's face. It was like he was saying "really is this building named after me?"

At that unveiling, immediately after the St. Michael-Albertville band completed playing "The Marine Corps" hymn there was a fly-over of Air Force F-15 fighters. What a glorious sight. And I know Chuck was pleased.

After the speakers and the ceremonies were concluded a long line formed to talk to and shake the hand of this Iwo Jima, flag raiser, Marine veteran—Corporal Charles Lindberg. I didn't stand in line. I "knew" I would be with Chuck again soon—on June 21st when three other couples, the Lindbergs and JoAnn and I would be going out to dinner with them — and again on July 7th when I would have the honor of honoring Chuck as the emcee at his 87th

"Old Glory" Waves Goodbye

Dedicated to the memory of Charles "Chuck" Lindberg: the last flagraiser of Iwo Jima

Our nation's lost an icon...
And "Old Glory's" lost a friend...
For Chuck Lindberg, our last flagraiser...
Will be missed by all of them!
He's now passed into history...
And will have long lasting fame...
Just like his fellow comrades...
Who were included with his name.
He was a proud Marine...
Like so many on that day...
Who raised up "Old Glory"...
And put her on display!

The event spurred on our country...
To end the job at hand...
And though the cost of Iwo Jima...
Sent a shock throughout our land!

Chuck Lindberg kept alive...
The spirit of that day...
And how "Old Glory" gave men hope...
When things had gone array!

But now Chuck's fallen silent...
And his Master's called him back...
For his work is now complete...
And history's now exact!

"Old Glory" won't forget him...
Because she was his friend...
And he loved her stars and stripes...
Right to his very end!

So now she'll wave goodbye...
To a man who loved her so...
And risked his life that others might...
Fight on to reach their goal!

By Bob Beskar June-24-2007

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birthday celebration.
But — it wasn't to be. Soon after the dedication Chuck was in the hospital—never again to return home.
I am so sorry. I will miss him. He was a great guy and a part of "the Greatest Generation!"

Semper Fi Chuck—Semper Fi!

Iwo Jima flag raiser Lindberg dies at 86

By CHRIS WILLIAMS, Associated Press Writer
Mon Jun 25, 11:50 AM ET

Charles W. Lindberg, one of the U.S. Marines who raised the first American flag over Iwo Jima during World War II, has died. He was 86.

Lindberg died Sunday at Fairview Southdale hospital in the Minneapolis suburb of Edina, said John Pose, director of the Morris Nilsen Funeral Home in Richfield, which is handling Lindberg's funeral.



Lindberg spent decades explaining that it was his patrol, not the one captured in the famous Associated Press photograph by Joe Rosenthal, that raised the first flag as U.S. forces fought to take the Japanese island.

In the late morning of Feb. 23, 1945, Lindberg fired his flame-thrower into enemy pillboxes at the base of Mount Suribachi and then joined five other Marines fighting their way to the top. He was awarded the Silver Star for bravery.

"Two of our men found this big, long pipe there," he said in an interview with The Associated Press in 2003. "We tied the flag to it, took it to the highest spot we could find and we raised it.

"Down below, the troops started to cheer, the ship's whistles went off, it was just something that you would never forget," he said. "It didn't last too long, because the enemy started coming out of the caves."

The moment was captured by Sgt. Lou Lowery, a photographer from the Marine Corps' Leatherneck magazine. It was the first time a foreign flag flew on Japanese soil, according to the book "Flags of Our Fathers," by James Bradley with Ron Powers. Bradley's father, Navy Corpsman John Bradley, was one of the men in the famous photo of the second flag-raising.

"We thought it would be a slaughterhouse up on Suribachi," Lindberg said in the book. "I still don't understand why we were not attacked."

Three of the men in the first raising never saw their photos. They were among the more than 6,800 U.S.

servicemen killed in the five-week battle for the island.

By Lindberg's account, his commander ordered the first flag replaced and safeguarded because he worried someone would take it as a souvenir. Lindberg was back in combat when six men raised the second, larger flag about four hours later.

Rosenthal's photo of the second flag-raising became one of the most enduring images of the war and the model for the U.S. Marine Corps memorial in Washington.

Rosenthal, who died last year, always denied accusations that he staged the photo, and he never claimed it depicted the first raising of a flag over the island.

Lindberg was shot through the arm on March 1 and evacuated.

There remained lingering disputes over the identity of at least one man in the first flag-raising. A California veteran of Iwo Jima, Raymond Jacobs, has said he believes he is the man with a radio on his back who had usually been identified as Pfc. Gene Marshall, a radio operator with the 5th Marine Division who died in 1987. The other men involved in the raising all have died.

Last year's film "Flags of Our Fathers," based on the book, features a character named Lindberg played by Alessandro Mastrobuono, according to the Internet Movie Database.

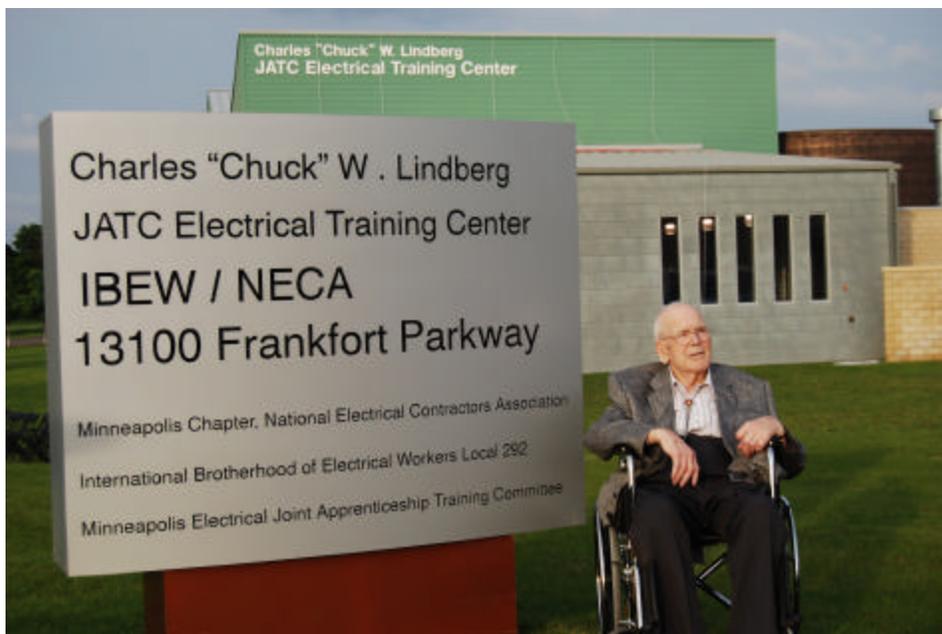
After his discharge in January 1946, Lindberg - no relation to Charles Lindbergh the aviator - went home to Grand Forks, N.D. He moved to Richfield in 1951 and became an electrician.

No one, he said, believed him when he said he raised the first flag at Iwo Jima. "I was called a liar," he said. In 1954, Lindberg was invited to Washington for the dedication of the Marine memorial. It carried the names of the second group of flag-raisers, but not the first.

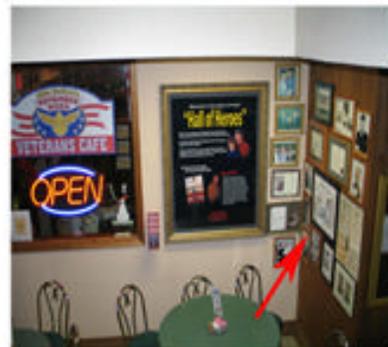
He spent his final years trying to raise awareness of the first flag-raising, speaking to veterans groups and at schools. He sold autographed copies of Lowery's photos through catalogs.

A back room in his neat house was filled with souvenirs of the battle, including a huge mural based on one of Lowery's photos. Prints of the photos were kept handy for visitors, and Lindberg's Silver Star and Purple Heart were in little boxes on a side table.

The Minnesota Legislature passed a resolution in Lindberg's honor in 1995. His face appears on a huge mural in Long Prairie of the battle for Iwo Jima, and his likeness is etched into the black granite walls of Soldiers Field in Rochester.



Charles "Chuck" Lindberg
June 26, 1920
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A Portion of the Lindberg Story in the Branson Hall of Heroes Display

After leaving boot camp Lindberg was assigned to the famous Carlson Raider Battalion, nicknamed "Carlson's Raiders," and led by LtCol Evans Carlson. And with the raiders it was on to Pearl Harbor for more training and then an assignment to Midway. But on the way to Midway they were told to return to Pearl because the Battle of Midway (a turning point of the war in the Pacific) was going on. So it was back to Pearl for two-months and more training, hard training because to be a Marine Raider you had to be good – you had to know what you were doing.

Then it was on to new assignments at Fiji, Espirito Santos and New Hebrides and more training and more waiting. After the waiting he was assigned to a Navy Destroyer which would take them to Guadalcanal.

And then these special troops of Carlson's Raiders landed at Aola Bay, Guadalcanal which was 30 to 40 miles west of Henderson Field, named after Maj. Lofton Henderson, the first Marine pilot killed in action by the Japanese during the historic Battle of Midway. From there these raiders were sent behind enemy lines where they spent the next 30 days harassing the enemy whenever and wherever they could.

After spending five weeks on "the canal" Lindberg, along with the other raiders, headed on to New Hebrides and then to New Zealand where they were supposed to have 30 days of leave. But after 6-days they were called back and loaded aboard ship to head back to New Hebrides. And these were some angry Marines aboard that ship after they expected 30 days of good times in New Zealand.

On November 1st Lindberg and the Carlson crew landed on Bouganville (Chuck calls this the big swamp) where they were involved in that battle and clean-up for about 3 to 4 months. From there it was back to Guadalcanal and then back stateside for a well-deserved, 30-day leave. After that leave it was back to duty and assignment at Camp Pendleton, CA where he would be assigned to an assault squad attached to the 5th Marine Division.

Then it was back to Hawaii where they were stationed on the big Hawaiian Island to train for a landing at who knows where. Another operation top secret. And then it was boarding the ship and heading for destiny.

In February 1945 they arrived at a Japanese Island, a volcanic island named Iwo Jima, which would become the most famous, and most costly, Marine battle in history, a battle in which almost 6,000 Marines paid the ultimate price. A price that would ultimately save the lives of (they estimate) 25,000 American airmen who were able to land their crippled ships on Iwo.

This island was bombed for over 70 days and then shelled for 72 hours preceding the landing. After that shellacking Chuck and his buddies thought this battle would be a cakewalk. Little did they know!

And then they hit the beach where they were welcomed by mortars and artillery which was "walked" strategically along every few feet of the landing area. The cakewalk was over before it

began. From that point it took them 3 days to reach the base of Mount Suribachi which was about a block and a half from their position.

And then after 5 days, on the 23rd of February 1945, Lindberg and the other flag raisers reached the summit of the mountain and history was about to be made. Luckily the Japanese never attacked before or during the flag raising so they were able to accomplish this mission unopposed.

As "Old Glory" was raised on that momentous date, the flag raisers heard loud cheering and ships whistles and horns being sounded. Marine and sailors were cheering and, as Lindberg told me, he had a very proud feeling and the excitement shivers went

up and down his back. History was made – the first time the American flag flew over Japanese territory. This led to another flag raising (some say to put a larger flag up and others say to protect that first, most important, Flag from any damage) which provided a photo which would be used to create the Marine Corps monument in Washington DC. This second raising led to no fanfare or cheering by those on the Island – the first, and most important, flag had already been raised by Lindberg and the other flag raisers.

After that first flag went up the Japanese attacked and the Marines had to fight and protect that treasured symbol of American freedom which was now flying over Iwo Jima. After many days of fighting by Lindberg and his buddies, Chuck, who was a flame thrower, was wounded on March 1st. A bullet penetrated his right arm and went right through the bone causing him to lose rotation. He then was evacuated to a hospital ship and then to Saipan and on to Pearl Harbor. From there he was shipped on to San Francisco and then to the Great Lakes Naval hospital to recover from his wound.

When Chuck was manning his flame thrower on Iwo he earned the Silver Star for gallantry against enemy forces using that flame thrower. As we all know those who were flame throwers, Navy Corpsmen and those who fire automatic weapons were the most favorite targets of the enemy. These people were sitting ducks for snipers and other gunners. Needless to say for his

wounds in action Lindberg also earned the Purple Heart.

After recovering Lindberg was assigned to guard duty at the Navy brig in Charleston, SC and it was in Charleston where he received his discharge after 4-years as a distinguished United States Marine. And it was then that the event that took place on the 23rd of February 1945 would forever shape Charles Lindberg and his wife Vi's life. And, I might add, it also guaranteed a home full of mementoes and treasures.

Written & presented by Kale Danberg, Always Faithful editor/publisher, who had the honor of hosting U.S. Marine Corps icon Charles Lindberg's 86th birthday celebration in June 2006.

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A Birthday Tribute To "Chuck"...

Today's a very special day...
For a man that we know well...
Who shares a part of history...
With men who went through "hell"!
Chuck Lindberg, like his comrades...
Knows the cost of war...
And served his country proudly...
While serving in the "Corps"!
He was just an average grunt...
When he helped raise up "Old Glory"
From an island of Japan...
Which now is quite a story!
The impact that they made...
Still lives with us today...
And fills our young Marines...
With the will to be that way!
Chuck truly is a legend...
That he never planned to be...
But history sometimes dictates...
What we may not clearly see!
He's also one great husband...
And a super father too...
Who would never hesitate...
To give his life for you!
So lets enjoy his birthday...
And wish him many more...
And give him one big "OOH RA"...
That would echo through the "Corps"!

SEMPER FI !

By, Bob Beskar 6-25-2006

The above poem was written by Bob for Lindberg's 86th birthday celebration.