

## IWO JIMA MONUMENT WEST – PRESS ASSETS

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### Monument Design – by Fentress Architects





**Iron Mike**

“Iron Mike” Mike Mervosh (4<sup>th</sup> Marines, Retired) with Laura Dietz (Founder – Iwo Jima Monument West), March 2015



**Reunion of Iwo Jima Veterans at Marine Memorial Club in San Francisco, March 2017**

Laura Dietz, Founder of Iwo Jima Monument West



**Reunion of Honor - Veterans of Iwo Jima celebrate the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle**

Photo taken on Iwo Jima 3/25/17. Laura Dietz, Founder of Iwo Jima Monument West, with (l to r) Iwo Jima Veterans: George Catalano, Carl DeHaven and US Army aviator Jerry Yellin, at the Reunion of Honor with US and Japanese leaders.



**Iwo Jima Association Annual Dinner - Feb 2016, Arlington VA**

Left to right – Brian Chaffee (Project Manager Fentress Architects), Laura Dietz (Founder Iwo Jima Monument West), General Ron Christmas (Founder - National Museum of the Marine. Corps)



## Hallowed ground - Mt Suribachi, Iwo Jima

Some 189 Marines are still unaccounted for by the POW MIA Office in DOD. Photo taken by Laura Dietz from Iwo to UA Charter during a circling of the famous battle site in WW2.



## QUOTES:

*"Everyone that fought in that hell hole raised that flag."*

When asked if he saw it go up he replied with pausing, *"No, I was too busy saving my butt!!!"*  
Sgt. Major Iron Mike, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines

*"My great-grandchildren will be able to see this and know the history and know that I was there. Thank you. I am proud to be part of this mission."*

Sgt. Carl Diekman, 5<sup>th</sup> Marines

*"The unparalleled gallantry and devotion of the men who took Iwo Jima struck the same deep response (on seeing the photo) in me that was in the heart of every American.... The raising of the (US) flag over Mount Suribachi was more than a symbol of a battle; it was a symbol of the spirit of the United States."*  
Commandant General A. A. Vandegrift, October 2, 1946 in a letter to Palmer Hoyt, Denver Post. [Note: Vandegrift's son, USMC Captain, was seriously wounded on Iwo Jima, but survived, and served in the Korean War].

*"This nation will remain the land of the free so long as it is the home of the brave."*

Elmer Davis, journalist and first Director of the US Office of War Information, WWII.

*"The stoicism and courage of the Marines...gave the war-weary American public a much-needed boost when morale was clearly low providing a palpable sense of optimism that the defeat of the Japanese was inevitable."*

The Lions of Iwo Jima (p. 11) by Major General Fred Haynes (USMC retired, on Iwo Jima), and James A. Warren (Holt, 2008).

## INTERVIEWS

### **Mike Mervosh | Iwo Jima Survivor Describes Battle "Iron Mike" (1:41)**

(4th Marines) describes Iwo Jima as the "perfect battle".

<https://youtu.be/iYMNuNo0OmI>

*It was strictly fighting man, against a fighting man. In other words, it was Kill or be Killed.*

*There were so many unselfish, unrelenting, acts of bravery, courage and heroism that occurred routinely, on a daily basis, as a true and keen sense of duty, that it was taken for granted, unrecognized, and most select, unaccountable for... Which brought forth an inspiring message by Admiral Nimitz, who will live on forever, that; "Among those that fought on Iwo Jima, Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue".*

### **Mike Mervosh | Marines Win With Sheer Determination and Guts (4:52)**

<https://youtu.be/NSrfpbnkU4M>

*0:42 – There was no place to hide, no place to take cover, except for the enemy, as they have been prepared for us for the longest time, in those well entrenched, concealed, underground fortifications, which consisted of 800 pillboxes, block houses, gunner placements, bunkers, ratholes, spider traps, ...*

*...Miles and miles of tunnels and caves. They enemy did not fight on Iwo Jima, they fought beneath it.*

*3:30 – which brought forth another inspiring message, by then Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal, that “The fearless and ferocious fighting of the Marines and the Flag Raising on Iwo Jima, guarantees the existence of the Marine Corps for the next 500 years.”*

### **Mike Mervosh | Iwo Jima Veterans Interviews (3:25)**

[https://youtu.be/2BRz\\_Y4NHoA](https://youtu.be/2BRz_Y4NHoA)

Mike discusses the flag raising and being missed by snipers. Then going back to the states and the war bonds... Why he joined the Marine Corps... right after Pearl Harbor. Enlisting, not having a phone, and being at a rest camp when the Atomic bomb was dropped.

### **Ray Miller**

Marine (Retired)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK4x\\_cQEGsU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK4x_cQEGsU)

Ray Miller grew up in a one room cabin in Arkansas, and fought our nations battles when the whole globe was essentially on fire. He talks about how after the battle they take him back to Hawaii for R&R... At the very end Ray Miller said they wanted him to go back to Pendleton and teach the boots about War. “Sir, you can’t teach war, it is on the job training.”

### **Bill Hardy**

US Army Air/ Hellcat Pilot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUzeDv2288M>

### **Robert Bergen, USN**

US Navy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfd9eYc9Xd0>

He was in the Navy, ship full of wounded, had to leave to get them to Saipan, and then get back and ready for the next battle at Okinawa. “That’s the penalty you paid for surviving one battle, you got to go to the next one.”