
20th Air Force

Tribute to the Marines of Iwo Jima



PIMA Air & Space Museum

Tucson, Arizona

April 5, 1997



Brigadier General Jan C. Huly

Brigadier General Jan C. Huly is currently serving as the Deputy Commanding General, Marine Forces, Reserve, New Orleans, La.

General Huly is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. Commissioned in December 1969, he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, 1st Marine Brigade, Hawaii, and subsequently to 3d Marine Division, where he served in various infantry command and staff assignments.



Transferred to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, in 1972, he served as a series commander, battalion adjutant, recruit company commander, and Director of the Recruit Administration Center. After completing Amphibious Warfare School in 1976, Captain Huly was assigned to 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he served as a battalion staff officer and rifle company commander, and assistant operations officer for the 5th Marine Regiment.

From 1979 to 1980, he commanded the Marine Detachment, USS RANGER. Transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1980, Major Huly served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After graduating from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico, Va., in 1985, Major Huly reported to 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where he made deployments overseas as an executive officer for battalion and regimental landing teams; and subsequently as Commanding Officer for Battalion Landing Team 1/8 (SOC). He also served as Executive Officer, 2d Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

Upon completion of the U.S. Army War College in 1990, Lieutenant Colonel Huly was assigned to the Personnel Management Division at Headquarters Marine Corps. During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Lieutenant Colonel Huly was assigned to 2d Marine Division in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations.

From May 1992 until March 1994, Colonel Huly served as the Commanding Officer of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (22 MEU (SOC)). He assumed duties as Chief of Staff, II Marine Expeditionary Force on June 1, 1994. He was advanced to his present grade on Sept. 8, 1995.

General Huly's decorations include the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

General Huly and his wife, Patricia have three children: Allison, Nicholas, and Lauren.

About Our Speakers



George W. Allen, Jr. Introduction of Program and Guests. A Virginia native who flew 26 missions as a 462nd Bomb Group (VH) tail gunner, George Allen has a fivefold debt to the Marines who fought on Iwo Jima, for his B-29 made five Iwo landings. He also survived a ditching off Iwo. Following his war time service and college, Allen worked for Capital Airlines and United Air Lines. He retired after 40 years as Production Controller for United's Engine Division. He and his wife of 52 years, Bobbie, live in San Jose, California.



Col. James Hays, USAF (Ret.), Chaplain. A 6th Bomb Group (VH) bombardier in 1945, Jim Hayes owes his life to the Marines who took Iwo Jima. His B-29 took a direct hit in the May 24th raid on Tokyo, knocking out one engine. Although five of the crew bailed out, Hays elected to stay with the aircraft which made it to Iwo Jima and a safe emergency landing. Entering the ministry after the war, the Seminole, Oklahoma native remained in the Air Force reserve and was called back as a chaplain in 1952. He retired in 1977.



Lt. Col. Richard N. Rice, USAF (Ret.). Radar Navigator of the 330th Bomb Group (VH)'s K-39, *The City of Hershey* (his home town in Pennsylvania), Rice flew 23 missions, including one which resulted in an emergency landing on Iwo Jima for battle damage repairs and medical attention for a wounded gunner. Recalled to active duty during the Korean War, Rice flew reconnaissance missions aboard an RB-29. Before retiring in 1968, he served as radar navigator on B-47s and then was assigned to the 351st Strategic Missile Wing (Minuteman). It was his suggestion for a suitable tribute to the United States Marines of Iwo Jima that blossomed into today's presentation.



Ned Robinson, former Director, Pima Air & Space Museum. Best known in Tucson as the museum's director during fourteen years of spectacular growth, he is less well known as a veteran of the 4th Marine Division who landed on Iwo Jima with the first wave on February 19th, 1945. Before he was severely wounded 18 days later by Japanese machine gun fire, the Shippensburg, Pennsylvania native saw the 9th Bomb Group's *Dina Might* make the first emergency landing on Iwo by a B-29. Robinson came to Tucson and worked at Davis Monthan AFB until his retirement in 1980 when he became director of the Pima Air Museum as it was then called. Under his guidance, the Museum's aircraft collection grew from just over 100 planes to 250 while attendance doubled. This building, named for him, and three other hangars were constructed under his leadership, along with the Space Gallery. He and Sara have six children and eighteen grandchildren.



John Tobison, Aircraft Commander, 468th Bomb Group (VH). Few emergency landings on Iwo Jima were preceded by more harrowing experiences than that of John Tobison and his crew on July 24, 1945. A Japanese anti-aircraft shell burst just under the right wing of his B-29, severely damaging the number 3 and 4 engines and wounding three crewmen. Once clear of Japan, Tobison ordered both engines feathered. Flying at greatly reduced speed and losing altitude steadily, Tobison just managed to make it to Iwo Jima and safety. The B-29 could have not flown another 100 miles. A self-described corn and hog farmer for most of his life, Tobison and his family live today in his native Wisconsin.



John Jennings, Past President, 20th Air Force Association. In 1945, at age 21, this native of Globe, Arizona, was the youngest Aircraft Commander in the 6th Bomb Group (VH) on Tinian. At the end of the war, with 35 missions to his credit, he came home and entered the University of Arizona, graduating in 1948. After serving for two years as Arizona's Secretary of State, he was recalled to active duty in 1951 at Williams AFB as Public Information Officer, a post he held until the end of the Korean War. Today, Jennings and his two sons operate a residential security firm in Phoenix. Founder of the 6th Bomb Group Association, he served as its president from 1985 to 1992 when he was elected President of the 20th AF Association.



Col. Edward D. Harrow, USAF (Ret.), Executive Director, Pima Air and Space Museum. Ed Harrow completed a 28 year Air Force career in June, 1994 and accepted the position of Executive Director of the museum shortly thereafter. Of his 4,000 hours of flying time, nearly 800 were recorded in combat during the Viet Nam war. He flew B-52s from Guam, Thailand and Korea during his first tour. As an HH-53 pilot on his second tour, he rescued downed U.S. airmen in hostile territory. He holds the DFC and nine Air Medals. He has also had three tours as a base commander. He came to Tucson in 1989 as Commander of the 355th Support Group at Davis Monthan AFB. In 1992, he took over as AFROTC Detachment Commander and professor of Aerospace History at the University of Arizona. Today, he will accept the 20th AF Association plaque and the Iwo Jima painting on behalf of the Tucson Air Museum Foundation and the museum staff.

Program

PIMA Air & Space Museum, WWII Building

April 5, 1997, 10:00 AM

Call to Order.....	George Allen
Posting the Colors.....	Color Guard, Davis-Monthan AFB
Pledge of Allegiance	George Allen
Invocation.....	Chaplain James Hays
<i>"To Honor the Marines of Iwo Jima"</i>	Richard Rice
<i>"Iwo Jima - How it Was"</i>	Ned Robinson
<i>"Iwo Jima - Saved Our Lives"</i>	John Tobison
Presentation of Plaque and Painting.....	John Jennings
Acceptance of Plaque and Painting	Edward Harrow
Response from the Marine Corps	Brig. Gen. Jan C. Huly
Benediction.....	Chaplain Hays
Taps.....	Color Guard
Retiring the Colors	George Allen





LEST WE FORGET

From early March, 1945, until the formal surrender of Japan on 2 September 1945, the island of Iwo Jima, 660 nautical miles south of Tokyo, was an emergency air base for B-29s of the 20th Air Force. Nearly 25,000 B-29 crewmen would find temporary refuge on the eight square mile island, halfway between their bases in the Marianas Islands and Japan. They remain indebted today to the men who made it possible - the United States Marines who wrested Iwo Jima from its Japanese garrison so that the island might become the safe haven for B-29s in trouble.

The battle for Iwo Jima began on the morning of 19 February 1945. Thirty thousand Marines of the Fifth Amphibious Corps, composed of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions, swarmed ashore. Of those who landed on the first day, over 500 were dead by nightfall. Some 1,750 were wounded. When the island was finally declared secure on 26 March, more than 5,900 Marines had been killed and 17,000 wounded. It was one of costliest campaigns in American military history. When the battle was won, Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz immortalized the Marines who fought on Iwo Jima when he said of their courage and sacrifice, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

The battle was still going on when, on 4 March 1945, a 9th Bomb Group B-29 made the first emergency landing on Iwo Jima. More than 2,400 would follow. The B-29 in this building - *Sentimental Journey* - was one of them. Many of the aircraft were dangerously low on fuel, others had sustained severe battle damage over Japan; some carried wounded crewmen. Had it not been for the Marines who fought and died on Iwo Jima - and the Navy Seabees who built the runways - there would have been little hope for these Superfortresses and their crews. Few could have made it safely back to their bases on Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

It is in grateful tribute to the Marines of Iwo Jima that this memorial has been placed here by surviving veterans of the 58th, 73rd, 313th, 314th and 315th wings of the 20th Air Force.

IN GRATITUDE AND REMEMBRANCE

5 APRIL 1997



Miniatures of the plaque can be purchased from the 330th Bomb Group, at the La Quinta Hotel after the ceremony.