



# THE SENTRY

Issue #12, February 2021



Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima, by Joe Rosenthal. This photo documents the second U.S. flag to be planted atop Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, during the Battle of Iwo Jima. The photo quickly became famous worldwide and to many, symbolized the resilience of the U.S. Marines during World War II. (Image: © Joe Rosenthal/Public Domain)

## Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima: The Story Behind The Photo

- by Tom Garner, [LiveScience.com](https://www.livescience.com)

On Feb. 23, 1945, during the Battle of Iwo Jima (Feb. 19 to March 26), six Marines planted the U.S. flag at the summit of Mount Suribachi. The scene was photographed by journalist Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press and his image soon became famous around the world. What many people do not know is that this iconic photo actually shows the second flag to be raised on Iwo Jima that day.

### Who raised the first flag on Iwo Jima?

Located on the southern tip of the Japanese island, Mount Suribachi is a dormant volcano that is 546 feet (166 meters) high. The summit has a dominating view of the rest of Iwo Jima, including its black sand beaches. During the battle, one of the bloodiest in the Pacific theater, Japanese forces used this vantage point to direct artillery fire onto the American forces.

A 40-man combat patrol, led by 1st Lt. Harold G. Schrier, was the first American unit to reach the summit of the mountain on Feb. 23. These men were from the 2nd Battalion, 28th Marines, and they carried with them a U.S. flag taken from the USS

Missoula, a tank transport ship that delivered troops and cargo to Iwo Jima. Earlier, Schrier had been handed the flag by his batallion's adjutant and was told, "If you get to the top, put it up."

The flag from the USS Missoula was raised by Schrier and two other Marines at around 10:30 a.m. local time.

"The best memory I've got is the day that we gave a flag off our ship to a lieutenant. That was the first flag that went up on Mount Suribachi," said Tom Price, a U.S. Navy veteran who was serving on the USS Missoula during the battle, and shared his memories of it with *History of War* magazine in January 2020.

"We watched them go up the mountain and raise the flag about 500 yards [457 meters] from the ship. There were hundreds of ships and everyone blew their sirens and horns. Everybody cheered and it was really something because the flag from the Missoula was the very first to be raised on Japanese territory," Price said. "We were very proud."

### Who raised the second flag?

The original flag planted by Schrier was considered too small to be easily seen from the northern side of the Suribachi, so the Marines searched for a replacement. According to historian Robert E.

Allen's book "The First Battalion of the 28th Marines on Iwo Jima" (McFarland, 1999), the flag shown in Rosenthal's famous photograph was delivered by Tank Landing Ship USS LST-779, and measured 56 inches by 96 inches (142 centimeters by 244 cm).

According to recent research, the men pictured in the photograph are: Harlon Block, Harold Keller, Ira Hayes, Harold Schultz, Franklin Sousley and Michael Strank. Rosenthal quickly photographed the Marines using his Speed Graphic camera, without the aid of a viewfinder. At the time, he did not realize the significance of the photograph.

Tragically, Block, Sousley and Strank were later killed in action during the battle. However, the three surviving servicemen returned home to a hero's welcome and immediately toured across the U.S. in support of the Seventh War Loan (bonds issued by the government to finance war operations) and raised a record-breaking \$26 billion for the war effort.

By the end of World War II, Rosenthal's photograph had become famous worldwide. The photograph, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945, served as inspiration for the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, in Arlington Ridge Park, Virginia. The memorial was unveiled on Nov. 10, 1954, in the presence of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed that the U.S. flag should fly over the memorial 24 hours a day.

## Single Sign-On: Easier Access to Legion Websites

- [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

The American Legion has moved to a single sign-on for its family of websites. This shift allows members and non-members who are registered users of the organization's national (not department) websites to have only one username and password when they visit and sign into any of the following:

- Legion.org
- Legiontown.org
- Baseball.legion.org
- MyLegion.org
- Centennial.legion.org

To enjoy the benefit of this new single sign-on, current registered users of the above websites need to take a few minutes to re-register. American Legion National Headquarters has moved from a vendor proprietary system, which required renewal of accounts for all American Legion web properties, and the new platform requires each user to have a unique email address as username. All member information remains securely and safely housed in MyLegion.org.

### Follow the five steps below to set up your single sign-on account:

- Click "Sign In" on an American Legion national website. You will be directed to the SSO site at [sso.legion.org](https://sso.legion.org).
- Click "Register as a new user." Fill in the form using your preferred contact email address and American Legion Family member ID (if applicable).

- Enter and confirm your desired password.
- Click "Finish" to receive your confirmation email.
- In the confirmation email, click the link to confirm your account (check your junk folder if it doesn't appear in your inbox). The provided email will be from [sso@legion.org](mailto:sso@legion.org). You must respond to the confirmation email; this step finalizes your account for single sign-on access.



Tuesday, February 9th - Monthly Activities (Meeting at 7pm)  
 Tuesday, March 9th - Monthly Activities (Meeting at 7pm)  
 Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> - Monthly Activities (Meeting at 7pm)

## Celebrating the Service of Black Americans

- Written by Autry James, [Legion.org](http://Legion.org)

As we enter February, designated Black History Month, I urge everyone to rethink this month. I think of it as celebrating the contributions of Black Americans to American history. I want us all to think of this month as a way to celebrate the service of Black Americans who have fought and died on foreign soil and on American soil to make sure the America we love, lives up to the ideals of our founding fathers.

As a Black American veteran, I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants who have paved the way for me. I am both grateful for the path they have laid and aware that it is my responsibility to pave the way for others who come after me.

As a Black American and a veteran, I know that deeply ingrained in us are both the horrors we have endured in America and the pride in which we have continuously and faithfully served her. The history of my own family is but one example. My grandfather answered the call to arms when our nation needed him. James Waiters Sr. of New Orleans was enlisted into the U.S. Army and went overseas for his country during World War I. He never got the opportunity to fight for his country because at the time our country denied him that opportunity. At that time our young country still had much to learn about living up to the ideals upon which it was founded. My grandfather served honorably, came home after the war, found work, took a wife and raised a family. My grandmother's youngest brother, Raymond Williams, also served our country when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and trained at Montford Point making him one of the first Black Americans to integrate the Marine Corps. He also served honorably, returned home and raised a family.

Both of these men raised families that contributed to this nation in the armed services, then continued to serve as police officers, teachers, Peace Corps volunteers and many other ways. My family is no different than many other American families in its commitment to service to this nation.

The difference may be that my grandfather and great uncle proudly and willingly served our nation in spite of the treatment towards Black Americans, particularly, but not exclusively, in the southern United States. These men instilled in my family the love of country, people and service to this nation. They believed that their service would pave the way toward making equality a reality as opposed to an idea.

Black Americans like my grandfather and great uncle have long believed that service to this nation in time of need would force America to live up to the ideals that its founding fathers wrote of but did not implement in their time. The men of my family believed that war and service would be transformative for America.

After all, how could any nation expect its citizens to go abroad and fight for democracy and then continue to deny democracy to those very citizens who risked their lives for the "American" way of life. My grandfather and great uncle were right. Their service was transformative for America but what they did not realize was though the fight over there was over it was just beginning at home.

The great fight for civil rights in America, one of America's greatest fights, began as a result of Black Americans who after serving abroad in the most elite fighting force the world has ever known, came home after both WWI and WWII and were denied the democracy in their own country. After both world wars, for Black Americans, merely wearing their uniform could get them killed or maimed for life, not by an enemy but by other Americans. Those acts and the understanding that America could not go back to what it was but must move forward was the catalyst for men like Charles Houston, Medgar Evers, Ralph Abernathy, and many other icons of the civil rights movement who served in uniform to organize and

fight not just for themselves but for the soul of America itself.

The men and women who fought for civil rights for all Americans, believed in and loved America in spite of her faults. These men and women fought, for the democracy that America believes in and cherishes. Those who fought for civil rights felt called to action to defend their country. When those whose minds they sought to change took up arms against them, they did not run from the fight. They forged ahead. The battles these veterans fought, eventually won over the hearts and minds of their adversaries and in 1964 the Civil Rights act was signed into law, followed in 1965 by the Voting Rights Act.

This is but one example of how Black Americans have continuously fought for America. The truth is Black Americans like my grandfather and great uncle have always fought for our country. In the Revolutionary War, 8,000 men of African descent fought alongside the patriots. During the Civil War, some 200,000 Black Americans fought on the side of the Union. Black Americans fought alongside Roosevelt in the Spanish-American War. They fought in the Indian wars, in Vietnam, and in every other conflict this young nation has been engaged in.

My grandfather never saw the results of his struggle as he died in 1950. My great uncle however lived until February 2020. My great uncle lived long enough to see the fruits of their labor. He lived long enough to be recognized by a grateful nation with a Congressional Gold Medal for his service to the fight for democracy and equality within this country. He lived long enough to see his sons, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews serve this country with honor, distinction and love of this country and all of its people.

I am grateful to both of these Black Americans for their contributions not to Black History but to the history of our nation. I am proud to be Black and proud to be an American and I am grateful to my grandfather, great uncle and others who lifted us all up to make this a better America. God bless America and all its people.

## The Fourth Pillar: Children and Youth



Bull Strength has started supervised strength training for aspiring baseball players in the warehouse! Pictured with eight young gentlemen is **Jason Beaulieu** (center front), who leads all sessions. The roots of the fourth pillar - Children & Youth - reach back to the combat-weary doughboys who founded The American Legion. They survived trench warfare, machine-gun firefights, mid-air dogfights and mustard gas. When they called their first caucus at Paris in 1919, they focused not on themselves but on the children and youth of America. They knew that children were made orphans by the war, and that many had little chance to succeed without help. The slogan they coined resonates today: "A Square Deal for Every Child." Millions of dollars have since been raised and innumerable hours have been volunteered by Legionnaires, in order to help children who are sick or in need, or simply looking for opportunities to achieve their goals.

The Sentry is a free, monthly newsletter of the American Legion Post 416, Lowe's Grove NC.

**Commander**, James Lowe  
**Adjutant/Communication Cmte Chair/The Sentry Editor**, Bill Granger

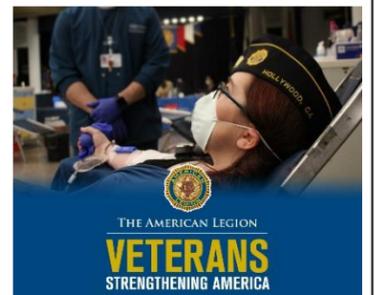
American Legion Post 416, P.O. Box 12202,  
 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709



<https://al416nc.wixsite.com/al416nc>  
 E-mail: [al416nc@gmail.com](mailto:al416nc@gmail.com)

### Calendar Reminders

- Feb 3 - Four Chaplains Day
- Feb 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
- Feb 15 - Presidents Day
- Feb 16 - Mardi Gras
- Feb 17 - Ash Wednesday
- Feb 18-26 - ALNC Mid-Winter Conference (Virtual)
- Feb 22 - Washington's Birthday
- Feb 23 - Iwo Jima flag raised in 1945
- Feb 28 - End of Operation Desert Storm in 1991



## Updated MyLegion.org Released

A new [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) has been released for American Legion members and officers. The new myLegion will be driven by one account profile associated with the email address on the administrative officer's personal membership record. Once logged into the new myLegion, administrative officers will see options to update their personal membership record and work with online post membership tools. Those select officers will also be able to grant authority to others that need access to online rosters and reports. An email address will be required on the administrative officer's membership record to

access the new myLegion, and all existing accounts will need to be registered. The registration process will send a one-time password (OTP) code to your email address. The OTP code will be required to complete the registration process. To make sure the most up-to-date email address is on file for your personal membership record, visit [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) and choose "Members Click Here." You can also call American Legion customer service at (833) 253-9995 to update your information, or email us at [mylegion@legion.org](mailto:mylegion@legion.org).