

But with a strength of spirit forged in the hometown churches, and neighborhood ballfields, and the schoolrooms of America, these young men who had been eating Coney dogs, dancing to Glenn Miller, and rooting for Joe Dimaggio just a short time before helped turn back one of the greatest evils this world has ever known.

There were 81 Congressional Medals of Honor awarded in all of World War II.

Twenty-seven were awarded for Iwo Jima alone.

But it was on the 5th day of fighting—50 years ago today—that Iwo Jima was burned into our memory.

Because on that day a young combat photographer named Joe Rosenthal took one of the most inspiring photographs in the history of America.

I'm talking, of course, about this famous photo of five marines and one Navy corpsman raising a triumphant American flag on Mount Suribachi above the sands of Iwo Jima.

For 50 years, this photo and the great bronze memorial made in its image have served as a lasting tribute to the courage and bravery of young Americans who served this country well, and who triumphed under conditions most of us could hardly imagine.

But of all the great tributes paid to the men of Iwo Jima the past week none is more inspiring—and I believe none speaks more to the heart of what it means to be an American—than the simple tribute paid by a sheet metal mechanic from Connecticut earlier today.

There, in the small town of Danielson, CT—population 16,000—Rick Orzulak finally lived out a tribute that was 3 years in the making.

Three years ago, Mr. Orzulak—who is a former marine himself—decided to pay a special tribute to the soldiers who fought at Iwo Jima.

He decided that with the help of the members of the local Paul C. Houghton detachment of the Marine Corps League—of which he is a member—they would recreate the flag raising in the small town of Danielson.

In order to do so, he decided, each person needed to be dressed exactly like the soldiers in the photograph—in uniforms and gear actually issued during World War II.

So, 3 years ago, with the help of his wife Beverly, Mr. Orzulak started making phone calls.

Using his own money, he tracked down frogskin pattern helmet covers from California and Montana.

He found herringbone trousers in Virginia and Mississippi.

He found K-bar knives in Massachusetts.

And crossflap canteen covers in Texas.

Until finally, one by one, each uniform was complete.

He even tracked down a U.S. flag with 48 stars.

And finally, in Danielson this morning, as the Star Spangled Banner and

then the Marine Corps hymn played, five former marines and one former Navy corpsman—Mr. Orzulak, Arthur Blackmore, Dennis O'Connell, Richard Bagan, Louis Verrette, and Francis Stevens—raised the flag in tribute to the men of Iwo Jima.

If you ask them why they did it, they'll say "we did it for one simple reason:"

To say "thank you" to the men who fought at Iwo Jima.

And "Semper Paratus" to the heroes who never came home.

Mr. Speaker, today as we join Richard Orzulak and Americans everywhere in remembering the sacrifices made at Iwo Jima, let us be strengthened by their courage, heartened by their valor, and let us continue to stand up for the ideals for which they lived and died.

Let us resolve that the men who served our country will never be forgotten.

Because in the end, that's the highest tribute we can pay.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LARGENT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE LANDING ON IWO JIMA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. MONTGOMERY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of Members gathered on the floor tonight to speak of an important event which took place 50 years ago. The United States was at war with Japan, and the main target in February 1945 of our forces was Iwo Jima.

This past Sunday, Mr. Speaker, we commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Marine landing on Iwo Jima at the Marine Corps War Memorial across the Potomac. I had the privilege of being there at this ceremony, and it was very well done, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Mundy, told us 50 years ago at that date, at 9 o'clock in the morning, the 3d Marine Division went ashore at Iwo Jima.

While the battle was still raging, Admiral Nimitz saluted the warriors with words that are now carved at the statue base, and it says this: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue." He said this without knowing that 27 of those who served on Iwo Jima would later be awarded the Medal of Honor. As mentioned here tonight, over half of the 27 had been killed on the island, and their families received and accepted the Medal of Honor.

One of the most remarkable things about the battle is how well both sides were prepared. The island was part of Japan's inner vital defense zone. Its commander was a general, and he had been on the island for many months, and he had designed textbook defensive positions. His men were disciplined, and resigned to the fact that they were unlikely to leave the island alive.

In the end, 90 percent of the Japanese defenders perished, but they exacted a high toll of American lives as well.

The Japanese knew exactly on the island where the Marines were coming in to land, and they had trained their big guns on that position. The American invasion force was battle-tested. Mr. Speaker, it was a good force, and had the largest number of Marines ever engaged in a single action.

The 4th Marine Division had conducted successful amphibious operations in the Marshall and Marianas Islands. The 3d Marine Division fought in the Solomons and on Guam.

Among the invaders were two marines who had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor who participated on that day. In addition to a veteran landing force, the Marines had strong support from our American battleships, and the big guns were firing on the island as well as the Marine, Navy, and Army Air Force planes.

The initial bombardment knocked out many of the Japanese shore defenses, but well-protected Japanese guns, as I understand it, on the northern part of the island fired killing salvos on the marines gathered on the beachhead. One marine said and described Japanese shelling as one of the worst bloodlettings of the war. They rolled their artillery barrages up and down the beach, he said. "I really don't see how anybody could live through the heavy fire barrages." Many of the Japanese fortifications were not affected by American artillery or by our air bombardment, so that the only way to advance had to be a frontal attack that the American Marines made.

I can think of very few occasions since the American Revolution where American forces were required to attack such heavily fortified positions. In this single action, we took more casualties than in any other battle that our country has ever fought another enemy. Only one other battle in the history of the world has had more casualties than we took at Iwo Jima. That was where the British lost 60,000 soldiers in a frontal trench attack in World War I.

Mount Suribachi fell on this day that we are celebrating 50 years ago, Mr. Speaker, and all the American forces who saw the now immortal flag-raising cheered this tactical victory. Unfortunately, the main battle was still ahead, and it took the Marines over a month to overcome the well-entrenched Japanese in the 4 miles of terrain north of Suribachi.

Three of the six who raised the flag were killed several days later.