

sacrifices of those who fought and served 50 years ago at Iwo Jima.

The battle for Iwo Jima holds a special place in the history of the Marine Corps. In many ways, it established the Corps firmly in the American consciousness. The picture of six Marines raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi is perhaps the most memorable image from World War II to most Americans. Yet, it is only a symbol of the immense sacrifice it took to wrest the island from Japanese control.

Iwo Jima was one of the bloodiest battles of the entire war. Some 6,800 American men died in the struggle for the Island, another 18,000 wounded. Roughly one out of every three marines who landed on the island became a casualty.

I think the engraved words on the face of the Iwo Jima monument tell the story of the battle best, quoting Admiral Nimitz when he said: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

It is a testament to that valor that more Marines were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor at Iwo Jima than in any other single battle in the history of the Corps. One of the 22 recipients, Captain Robert Dunlap, is a constituent. He was born in the town of Abingdon and now resides in Monmouth, Illinois.

Let me quote to you from the citation given to Captain Dunlap when he was awarded our Nation's highest military honor.

Defying uninterrupted blasts of Japanese artillery, mortar, rifle and machine gun fire, Capt. Dunlap led his troops in a determined advance from low ground uphill toward the steep cliffs from which the enemy poured a devastating rain of shrapnel and bullets, steadily inching forward until the tremendous volume of enemy fire from the caves located high to his front temporarily halted his progress. Determined not to yield, he crawled alone approximately 200 yards forward of his front lines, took observation at the base of the cliff 50 yards from Japanese lines, located the enemy positions and returned to his own lines where he relayed the vital information to supporting artillery and naval gunfire units.

Persistently disregarding his own personal safety, he then placed himself in an exposed vantage point to direct more accurately the supporting fire working without respite for 2 days and 2 nights under constant enemy fire, skillfully directed a smashing bombardment against the almost impregnable Japanese positions despite numerous obstacles and heavy Marine casualties. A brilliant leader, Capt. Dunlap inspired his men to heroic efforts during this critical phase of the battle and by his decision, indomitable fighting spirit and daring tactics in the face of fanatic opposition, greatly accelerated the final decisive defeat of Japanese countermeasures in his sector and materially furthered continued advance of his company. His great personal valor and gallant spirit of self sacrifice throughout the bitter hostilities reflect highest credit upon Capt. Dunlap and the U.S. Naval Service.

Mr. Speaker, the heroism of Captain Dunlap and the rest of the veterans of that conflict helped bring the end of the war closer. The capture of the is-

land brought our strategic bombers within effective range of the Japanese mainland. It also saved lives. Over 2,000 B-29's used Iwo Jima as an emergency landing strip after the invasion.

As a former marine, I salute Capt. Dunlap and all of the other veterans of the battle whose selfless service and sacrifice secured our freedoms, including my own cousin Jack * * * born in Rock Island, IL, and now living in Davenport Iowa, who served valiantly with the other marines in that conflict.

I am so pleased and honored to have had this opportunity to join my fellow Veterans' Committee colleagues and former marines in this special order.

Semper Fi to each and every one of you.

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

[Mr. MICA addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereinafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ON IWO JIMA

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

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, first let me say that I am honored to speak in this special order tonight and I thank Congressman MONTGOMERY for organizing the special order. During the past several days, this Congress and this Nation have paused to reflect on the Battle for Iwo Jima, which was engaged 50 years ago this past Sunday. I read with interest the dialogue which took place in the other body last Wednesday, and I hope my colleagues will take the time to read the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD account of that discussion in addition to this special order.

Last Friday at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio Marines past and present and other veterans gathered at a luncheon honoring this Iwo Jima campaign and those who fought there. Preparing for this speech gave me an opportunity to reflect on the significance of this historic battle: Both to the Marines of 1945 and to the Marines of today and tomorrow. Since my colleagues have already discussed the battle itself, I will try to focus on the present and the future.

As this Nation honors those who served 50 years ago, we cannot escape the fact that their numbers are decreasing. Their dedication, bravery, and devotion to fellow man and country and Corps are left for future generations to honor.

I wore the Marine Corps uniform for a different generation, a different war. Yet I cannot and will not forgo the obligation, the responsibility, of honoring the legacy of those who served before me. Set the example.

We honor them in many ways: By awarding medals, building monuments,

lending their names to streets, schools, and bases just to name a few. But those of us who serve in Congress have an extra responsibility to these men. We must ensure that the blood, sweat, and tears which they shed in wartime will not be forgotten during this or any other prolonged period of peace.

Gen. Holland Smith said that the battle of Iwo Jima would assure the internal existence of the Marine Corps. This may be true, but in what form? The debate still rages in the halls of Congress.

Today's Marine Corps is in a precarious position. Nobody will dare question the quality of the men and women currently serving in uniform. The problem is: Do we have enough of them in uniform to meet our national security needs and are we able to take care of them adequately?

General Mundy, during his testimony in support of the FY 96 budget request, stated that the proposed force level of 174,000 active and 42,000 selected marine reservists is, the absolute minimum force level to enable the corps to meet today's requirements.

In addition to the budget debate in Congress, there is a roles and missions debate ongoing in the Pentagon. The recommendations from an independent panel will be released shortly. In this context, I offer a small comparison between the battle for Iwo Jima and the Persian Gulf war.

I recall nearly 5 years ago that many people called for a comprehensive, sustained air campaign against Iraq's forces in hopes that ground troops would not be needed. Many feared that the price of military victory in human lives would be too high.

After 38 days of aerial bombardment, which President Bush called, " * * * the most effective, yet humane, in the history of warfare," ground forces were ordered into Kuwait to achieve the military objective.

Looking back at Iwo Jima, we must not forget that the island and its defenders were subjected to 6 months of constant aerial bombardment before the marines landed. In the past 50 years of technological advances, it is still the grunts on the ground who will be called upon in the future to fight and win our Nation's battles.

Even during my service, Mr. Speaker, every Quonset hut, every barracks that you went into, you would see a motto, a quote there that said, "The more we sweat in peacetime, the less we bleed in war." Today's Marines are ready and prepared.

Mr. Speaker, the survivors of Iwo Jima do not seek any personal glory. They served because their Nation called. It is only fitting for my generation and those after me to recognize, honor, and commemorate these valiant Marines.

However, I believe the most appropriate tribute we can pay is to forever uphold the values which they exhibited