



STRATEGIC  
AIR & SPACE  
MUSEUM

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Seeking Iwo Jima Veterans The Battle of Iwo Jima Ended 65 Years Ago***

(Ashland, NE) The Battle of Iwo Jima ended March 26, 1945. To celebrate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of this horrific battle, the Strategic Air and Space Museum (SASM) would like to invite any area Iwo Jima veterans to be their guests at weekend events on March 26 and 27, 2010. Tickets are available for the public to attend the weekend events to witness living history.

Friday, March 26, the Museum will host a dinner for six Marines who served side-by-side with the Iwo Jima flag raisers. These Marines are all Veterans of the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, 28<sup>th</sup> Marines, Easy Company, and **their stories have been immortalized in the book and film, "Flags of Our Fathers."** Four of the six Marines are Purple Heart recipients, and one is a Silver Star recipient. Col. Dave Severance led the Marines as the Captain at the time, and Ralph Griffiths served directly with all six Flag Raisers and was wounded by the same shell that killed Mike Strank and Harlon Block.

On Saturday, March 27, the Marines will again gather at the Museum for autographs, followed by a book signing.

"This is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate the amazing achievements of these World War II veterans," said Evonne Williams, interim executive director of SASM. "If you have read '**Flags of Our Fathers**,' then you have an idea of what extraordinary experiences these men endured on the black sands of Iwo Jima. It is a privilege to welcome them to Nebraska, as we honor them and our area Marine veterans, who also served on Iwo Jima."

**Iwo Jima Veterans are asked to call 402-944-3100 x 245, for an invitation to this event.**

Members of the public who wish to attend can register by phone at 800-595-4849 or online at [www.SASMuseum.com](http://www.SASMuseum.com).

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Editor's Note: An event flyer with photos is attached.