



***The United States Marine Corps War Memorial Flag Detail, Inc.
P.O. Box 75, Waynesboro, Virginia 22980***

For Immediate Release:

On May 2, 2008 The United States Marine Corps War Memorial Flag Detail, Inc. (“Iwo Flags”) participated in a flag presentation at Marine Barracks 8th & I in Washington, DC. The presentation followed the conclusion of the Barracks’ members’ final parade rehearsal before the season’s first Evening Parade that night.

Iwo Flag’s president and chairman of the board, James Donovan, assisted by founding director Col Michael McGowan (USMC, ret.), presented the flag to Colonel W. Blake Crowe, the Barracks’ commanding officer. The flag was presented to Colonel Crowe as a representative of the Barracks’ troops, as a means of hopefully providing the troops with a link to the past, the present and the future.

The flag presented was one of the flags that Iwo Flags, in cooperation with Marine Barracks Henderson Hall and the National Park Service, had sponsored and had been flown over the Iwo Jima Memorial. In addition to having been flown over the Memorial, the flag was also unfurled atop Mt. Surabachi on the island of Iwo Jima, through the efforts of the Young Marines program and it’s executive director, LtCol. Michael Kessler (USMC, ret.), one of the founding directors of Iwo Flags.

Other founding directors of Iwo Flags present for the occasion were Col John Donovan (USMC, ret.), Major William Lee (USMC, ret.), and Robert Manchester, all of whom, at one time or another, served at the Barracks.

Iwo Flags’ mission is to ensure that a serviceable American flag is always proudly seen flying over the Iwo Jima Memorial, one of the most treasured icons for Marines and those who have served—and are serving—with them.

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For additional information, contact:

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**James Donovan, Chairman, Waynesboro, VA; Col. Michael McGowan, New Market, MD;
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At the time of the flag presentation to Col Crowe, Robert Manchester, on behalf of Iwo Flags, offered the following:

“Colonel, men and women of 8th & I and guests.

Because of the dedication and determination of one man, our president, Jim Donovan, I am honored to be here as one of the representatives of The United States Marine Corps War Memorial Flag Detail, Inc.—the organization we know as Iwo Flags.

With the support and cooperation of the command at Henderson Hall and the Barracks and the National Park Service, Iwo Flags was formed to ensure that appropriate colors will always be flying over the Memorial.

The present officers and directors of Iwo Flags all served at 8th & I as officers and enlisted—We have all been where you are and are better for it.

We offer this Iwo flag as a means of providing what we hope will serve as a powerful link between the Barracks past, the Barracks present and the Barracks future.

The flag was not only flown over the Memorial but, because of the involvement of the Young Marines program and its executive director and Iwo Flags board member Col. Mike Kessler, the flag was unfurled on the top of Mt. Suribachi.

Colonel, we present the flag to you and your troops—the core of the Corps—in gratitude for what you are doing to protect, preserve and enhance our former post, Marine Barracks 8th & I.”

