

**ENCLOSURE**

**3**



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
**3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000**

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
26 Apr 16

From: Lieutenant General Jan Huly, USMC (retired)  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps

Subj: REPORT OF THE HULY BOARD TO REVIEW NEW  
INFORMATION REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF THE SECOND FLAG  
RAISERS ATOP MOUNT SURIBACHI, IWO JIMA

Ref: (a) CMC ltr Huly Board Precept of 19 Apr 16

Encl (1) Report of the Huly Board Review of New Information  
Regarding the Identity of the Second Flag Raisers  
atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima

1. In accordance with Reference (a), the board's report, Enclosure (1) is submitted. The Enclosure includes the reference material and key photographs reviewed by the board in furtherance of its requirement to review new information regarding the identity of the second flag raisers atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

2. The References used by the board in the course of its deliberations were cross checked with extant published sources related to the flag raising, historical division photographs, and the forensic material provided by the "Lucky 8" television group.

JAN C. HULY



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MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY  
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REPORT OF THE HULY BOARD REVIEW OF NEW INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
IDENTITY OF THE SECOND FLAG RAISERS ATOP MOUNT SURIBACHI, IWO JIMA

- Ref: (a) Wells, John Keith. *"Give Me Fifty Marines Not Afraid to Die": Iwo Jima*. Washington, DC: Quality Publications, 1995.
- (b) Nalty, Bernard C. and Danny J. Crawford. *The United States Marines on Iwo Jima: The Battle and the Flag Raisings*. Washington, DC: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1995.
- (c) Spence, Dustin. "Unraveling the Mysteries of the First Flag Raising." *Leatherneck* LXXIX, No. 10 (October 2006): 34-43
- (d) Marling, Karal Ann and John Wetenhall. *Iwo Jima Monuments, Memories, and the American Hero*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991.
- (e) Keene, R.R. "Louis Lowery Captured Leatherneck History on Film." *Leatherneck* LXXIX, No. 10 (October 2006): 32.
- (f) Albee Jr., Parker Bishop and Keller Cushing Freeman. *Shadow of Suribachi: Raising the Flags on Iwo Jima*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers, 1995.
- (g) Rosenthal, Joe. "Gung Ho" Photograph, 23 February 1945. Defense Media Activity. Accessed 21 April 2016, <http://media.dma.mil/1945/Feb/23/176790/-1/-1/0/450223-M-0000W-007.jpg>.
- (h) Bradley, James with Ron Powers. *Flags of Our Fathers*. New York, NY: Bantam Books, 2000.
- (i) Buell, Hal, ed. *Uncommon Valor, Common Virtue*. Penguin, 2006.
- Encl: (1) CMC letter dated 19 April 2016, Precept Convening the Huly Board to Review New Information Regarding the Identity of the Second Flag Raisers atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima [Cover Letter Ref (a)]
- (2) Report of the Board Appointed to Determine the Identity of Personnel Who Participated in the Mt. Suribachi Flag Raising as Photographed by Mr. Joe Rosenthal of the Associated Press [De Valle Board Report]
- (3) Excerpts, Muster Roll of 2d Battalion, 28th Marines (April 1944; October 1944; January 1945; February 1945); Casualty Card of PFC Schultz
- (4) Excerpts, Muster Roll of Headquarters Battalion, 5th Marine Division (January 1945)
- (5) Casualty Card of Sgt Genaust
- (6) Genaust, "Iwo Jima D+4," Roll 13
- (7) Casualty Card of Cpl Block
- (8) Casualty Card of Sgt Strank
- (9) Casualty Card of PFC Sousley

- (10) Hansen, Matthew. "New Mystery Arises from Iconic Iwo Jima Image." *Omaha World-Herald*. 23 November 2014. Accessed 21 April 2016, <http://dataomaha.com/media/news/2014/iwo-jima/>.
- (11) Plaxton, Michael. "Analysis of Digital Images for Lucky 8 TV." Forensic Video Consulting, 17 December 2015.

Authority

The Board was convened by CMC Precept letter dated 19 April 2016. [Encl (1)]

Board Composition

President	LtGen Jan C. Huly, USMC (Ret)
Member	Colonel Keil R. Gentry, USMC, Director, MCWAR
Member	Colonel Jason Q. Bohm, USMC, Director, EWS
Member	Colonel Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret), Editor, <i>Leatherneck</i>
Member	Sergeant Major Justin D. LeHew, USMC, SgtMaj, TECOM
Member	Sergeant Major David L. Maddux, USMC, SgtMaj, EDCOM
Member	Sergeant Major Richard A. Hawkins, USMC (Ret)
Member	Dr. Sarandis Papadopoulos, Navy Department Secretariat Historian
Member/Recorder	Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer, Director, History Division
Administrative Support	Dr. Breanne Robertson

Date and Location

The Huly Board convened at the Gray Research Center, Quantico, VA, at 0900 on 19 April 2016. The Board concluded at 1600 on 27 April 2016.

### Preliminary Statement

In accordance with the enclosure, the Huly Board reviewed enhanced photographic forensic evidence, photographs, film, eyewitness statements, and other available evidence related to the flag raising. The evidence reviewed by the Board represents an aggregation of years of painstaking research by numerous historians, authors, forensics experts, and others.

On 23 February 1945, as part of the operation to take Iwo Jima, 2d Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment (2/28) was assigned the mission of securing Mount Suribachi. As planned once the Marines secured the summit, they raised the American flag. As that first flag snapped in the wind, cheers rose from the beach, ships sounded their horns, and Secretary of the Navy Forrestal turned to MajGen H.M. Smith and said, "Holland, this means a Marine Corps for another 500 years." At the time, the first flag raising was the more significant of the two flag raisings to those present. The second flag raising would likely have been lost to history, if it were not for Mr. Joseph "Joe" J. Rosenthal's iconic photograph. Given this context, the stress of combat, and the passage of time, it is not surprising that facts surrounding the second flag raising have been difficult to determine.

The 1947 del Valle Board focused primarily on correcting the identification of the individual in Position #1. That Board determined the identities of the six flag raisers in Mr. Rosenthal's photograph of the second flag raising atop Mount Suribachi as shown in Figure 1. The del Valle Board relied on witness statements and the iconic photograph to identify the flag raisers. Since 1947, additional evidence has come to light and there have been significant advances in photographic forensics.

Identifying personnel in specific locations and times based upon the positioning of visible combat gear and clothing is difficult. People may reposition their gear and clothing, thereby changing their appearance in photographs and film. Nevertheless, physical recognition of faces, body positions, and combat gear present the strongest corroborative evidence this Board had to consider at this time.



Figure 1: The del Valle Board Determination of the Identities of the Six Flag Raisers in Mr. Rosenthal's Photograph

The Huly Board used the position numbers indicated in Figure 2 below to reference individual locations.

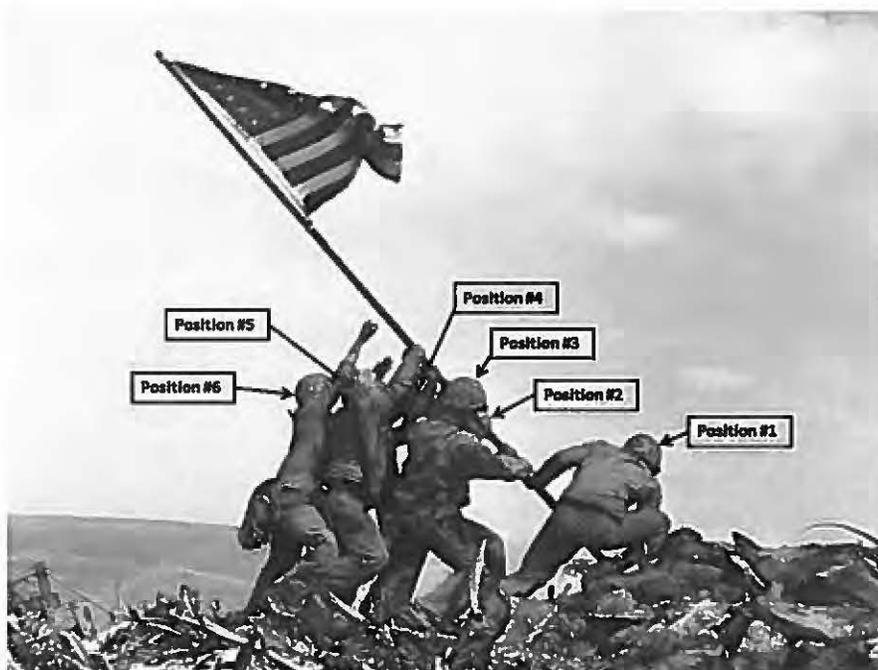


Figure 2: Huly Board Position Reference

### Findings of Fact

1. On 23 February 1945, Sgt Michael Strank (275228), Cpl Harlon H. Block (820595), PFC Ira H. Hayes (448804), and PFC Franklin R. Sousley (942297) were members of the same squad in E/2/28. [Encl (2)]
2. On 23 February 1945, PFC Harold H. Schultz (555867) was a mortarman with E/2/28. [Encl (3)]
3. On 23 February 1945, PhM2c John H. Bradley (8681681) was a corpsman with HQ/2/28. [Encl (3)]
4. On 23 February 1945, PFC Rene A. Gagnon (808267) was the Battalion Commander's Runner from E/2/28. [Ref (b), p. 8]
5. On 23 February 1945, SSgt Louis R. Lowery was a *Leatherneck* photographer assigned as a combat cameraman to 5th Marine Division. [Encl (4)]
6. On 23 February 1945, Sgt William H. Genaust was assigned as a combat cameraman to 5th Marine Division. [Encl (4), Encl (5)]
7. On 23 February 1945, PFC Robert R. Campbell was assigned as a combat cameraman to 5th Marine Division. [Encl (4)]
8. On 23 February 1945, CO 2/28, LtCol Chandler W. Johnson, ordered XO, E/2/28, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier, to lead a platoon-sized patrol with the mission to secure the top of Mount Suribachi and raise the American flag. [Ref (b), p. 5]
9. SSgt Lowery and PhM2c Bradley were members of the patrol. [Ref (d), p. 45]
10. The first flag was raised at approximately 1020 on 23 February 1945 atop Mount Suribachi. [Ref (b), p. 5]
11. SSgt Lowery took photographs of members in the vicinity before and after the first flag raising. [Ref (c), p. 34-43]
12. PhM2c Bradley participated in the raising of the first flag atop Mount Suribachi. [(Ref (c), p. 34-43)]
13. PFC Schultz was in the immediate vicinity of the first flag raising atop Mount Suribachi. [Ref (c), p. 34-43]
14. On 23 February 1945, CO 2/28, LtCol Johnson, ordered a resupply patrol to carry a second, larger flag to replace the first flag. [Ref (b), p. 8]

15. On 23 February 1945, Mr. Rosenthal was a photographer with the Associated Press (AP). [Encl (2)]
16. On 23 February 1945, Sgt Strank, Cpl Block, PFC Hayes, PFC Sousley, and PFC Gagnon were members of the resupply patrol, accompanied by Mr. Rosenthal, Sgt Genaust, and PFC Campbell, that carried the second flag to the top of Mount Suribachi. [Ref (d), p. 64-67 and Encl (2)]
17. The second flag was raised at approximately 1300 on 23 February 1945 as the first flag was simultaneously lowered. [Ref (e), p. 32]
18. Sgt Genaust filmed the preparation and raising of the second flag. [Encl (6)]
19. Sgt Genaust stopped filming the preparation of the second flag prior to it being raised, and he moved to a new position. [Ref (d), p. 67 and Encl (6)]
20. Before the break in filming, the Genaust film shows four individuals focused on getting into position on the flag pole. [Encl (6)]
21. Sgt Genaust resumed filming after an undetermined period of time. [Encl (6)]
22. After the break in filming and just prior to the raising of the flag, the Genaust film shows that the second flag raisers were focused in the direction of the first flag and not on each other. [Encl (6)]
23. Sgt Genaust continued filming and captured six individuals raising the second flag. [Encl (6)]
24. Mr. Rosenthal photographed the second flag being raised. [Encl (2)]
25. PFC Campbell photographed the first flag being lowered while the second flag was being raised (see Figure 3). [Ref (f)]



Figure 3: Cropped Photograph of the First Flag being Lowered and the Second Flag Being Raised taken by PFC Campbell

26. Shortly after the second flag was raised, Mr. Rosenthal took a group photo around the second flag, which became known as the “Gung Ho” photograph (see Figure 4). [Ref (f)]



Figure 4: Annotated “Gung Ho” Photograph taken by Mr. Rosenthal

27. Cpl Block was killed in action (KIA) on Iwo Jima on 1 March 1945. [Encl (7)]

28. Sgt Strank was KIA on Iwo Jima on 1 March 1945. [Encl (8)]

29. PhM2c Bradley was wounded on 12 March 1945 and evacuated by air on 13 March 1945. [Ref (b), p. 11]

30. PFC Sousley was KIA on Iwo Jima on or about 21 March 1945. [Encl (9)]

31. PFC Gagnon made the original identifications of the second flag raisers in Mr. Rosenthal’s iconic photograph upon his return to the United States. [Encl (2)]

32. PhM2c Bradley, Sgt Strank, PFC Sousley, PFC Hayes, and PFC Schultz are identified in Mr. Rosenthal’s “Gung Ho” photograph (see Figure 4). [Ref (g), Ref (h), and Ref (f)]

33. At some later time, PFC Schultz identified himself as the fifth individual from the right in an inscription on the “Gung Ho” photograph. [Encl (10)]

34. The 1947 del Valle Board determined the individual in Position #1 is Cpl Harlon Block. [Encl (2)]

35. No known evidence contradicts the findings of the del Valle Board as to the identification of the individual in Position #1. [Ref (a)-(i) and Encl (1)-(11)]

36. The individual in Position #1 is wearing a strap across his back that is consistent with a bandoleer (see Figure 1). [Encl (2)]

37. The Genaust film shows all 6 flag raisers positioned around the upright pole. [Encl (6)]

38. Sgt Genaust stopped filming for a second time. [Encl (6)]

39. Sgt Genaust resumed filming after an indeterminate number of seconds. The gear worn on the individuals holding the flag pole is consistent with the persons from Positions #1, #3, #4, and #6 shown before the second break in filming. [Encl (6)]

40. During the break, Mr. Rosenthal moved slightly to the right of his original position. In this way he was able to capture a profile view of the individual in Position #1, a frontal view of the individual in Position #3, and a partial view of the individual in Position #6 (see Figure 5). [Ref (i)]



Figure 5: Cropped and Annotated Photo of Individuals Securing the Second Flag taken by Mr. Rosenthal

41. Sgt Genaust continued filming and captured the individuals in Positions #1, #3, #4, and #6 are shown stabilizing the flag pole, while the individual in Position #5 is walking away from the flag. [Encl (6)]

42. Mr. Rosenthal took a contemporaneous photograph of the individual from Position #1 shown in the Genaust film where his face and equipment are clearly seen (see Figure 5). [Ref (i)]

43. The face of the individual in Position #1 in the contemporaneous photograph by Mr. Rosenthal resembles the service photograph of Cpl Harlon Block (see Figure 5). [Ref (i)]
44. The 1947 del Valle Board determined the individual in Position #2 is PFC Gagnon. [Encl (2)]
45. PFC Gagnon identified himself as the individual in Position #2. [Encl (2)]
46. The Genaust film and PFC Campbell's photograph of the two flags show the individual in Position #2 with a rifle slung over his shoulder, which is consistent with PFC Gagnon's T/O weapon. [Encl (6)]
47. The momentary glimpse of the face in Position #2 appears to be PFC Gagnon. [Encl (6)]
48. The 1947 del Valle Board determined the individual in Position #3 is PhM2c Bradley. [Encl (2)]
49. PhM2c Bradley identified himself as the individual in Position #3. [Encl (2)]
50. The individual in Position #3 is wearing an empty canteen cover, cartridge belt without suspenders, wire cutters, soft cover under helmet, and is not carrying a rifle nor wearing a field jacket. Additionally, his trousers are not cuffed. [Encl (11)]
51. Photographs show PFC Sousley wearing an empty canteen cover, cartridge belt without suspenders, wire cutters, soft cover under helmet, and he is not wearing a field jacket. Additionally, PFC Sousley's trousers are not cuffed. [Encl (11)]
52. Photographs show PhM2c Bradley not wearing an empty canteen cover, wire cutters, or a soft cover under his helmet. He is shown wearing a field jacket, two medical unit 3s, first aid pack, K-bar, full canteen cover, and suspenders. Additionally, his trousers are cuffed, and he is wearing leggings. [Encl (11)]
53. The Genaust film shows the individual in Position #3 moving into a subsequent position where his face and his equipment are clearly seen. [Encl (6)]
54. Mr. Rosenthal took a contemporaneous photograph of the individual from Position #3 shown in the Genaust film where his face and equipment are clearly seen (see Figure 5). [Encl (11)]
55. Photographic analysis of Mr. Rosenthal's photograph identifies the individual from Position #3 as PFC Sousley. [Encl (11)]
56. The 1947 del Valle Board determined the individual in Position #4 is Sgt Strank. [Encl (2)]
57. The Genaust film shows the individual in Position #4 moving into a subsequent position where a portion of his left hand is visible. [Encl (6)]

58. Mr. Rosenthal took a contemporaneous photograph of the individual, who is shown in the Genaust film in Position #4, where the bare ring finger of his left hand is clearly visible. [Encl (11)]

59. A ring is clearly visible on the ring finger of the left hand of PhM2c Bradley in photographs PFC Campbell (see Figure 6) and SSgt Lowery shot prior to the second flag raising. [Encl (11)]



Figure 6: Annotated photograph taken by PFC Campbell of the first flag as the second flag is being readied behind and out of the picture with PhM2c Bradley in the foreground. Sgt Genaust and Mr. Rosenthal are the two individuals posing to the left of the flag pole.

60. No ring is visible on the ring finger of the left hand of Sgt Strank in the “Gung Ho” photograph. [Ref (g)]

61. No medical unit 3s, or other gear worn on the torso, are visible on the individual in Position #4. [Encl (6) and (10)]

62. Sgt Strank is not wearing any gear other than a helmet over a soft cover in the “Gung Ho” photograph. [Ref (g)]

63. In the Genaust film before the break, the individual in Position #4 appears to be wearing a soft cover. [Encl (6)]

64. In the Genaust film after the break, the individual in Position #4 appears to be wearing a helmet. [Encl (6)]

65. Of the photographs available to and reviewed by this Board, none show PhM2c Bradley wearing a soft cover on Mount Suribachi. [Ref (a)-(i) and Encl (1)-(11)]

66. Sgt Strank was wearing a soft cover under his helmet in the "Gung Ho" photograph. [Ref (g)]
67. The 1947 del Valle Board determined the individual in Position #5 is PFC Sousley. [Encl (2)]
68. The individual in Position #5 has a broken helmet liner strap hanging from the left side of his helmet. [Encl (11)]
69. PFC Schultz has been identified in photographs as having a broken helmet liner strap hanging from the left side of his helmet. [Encl (11)]
70. From the photographs and film footage examined, no one else has been identified atop Mount Suribachi with a broken helmet liner strap hanging from the left side of his helmet. [Ref (a)-(i) and Encl (1)-(11)]
71. The individual in Position #5 has a sling attached to the stacking swivel instead of being properly attached to the upper hand guard sling swivel of his rifle. [Encl (11)]
72. PFC Schultz has been identified in photographs as having a sling attached to the stacking swivel of his rifle. [Encl (11)]
73. From the photographs and film footage examined, no one else has been identified atop Mount Suribachi carrying a rifle with a sling attached to the stacking swivel of his rifle. [Ref (a)-(i) and Encl (1)-(11)]
74. The individual in Position #5 has a bulging right front field jacket pocket. [Encl (11)]
75. PFC Schultz has been identified in photographs as having a bulging right front field jacket pocket. [Encl (11)]
76. There is no indication PFC Schultz or anyone else ever mentioned him as raising the flag on Iwo Jima. [Encl (10)]
77. The 1947 del Valle Board determined the individual in Position #6 is PFC Hayes. [Encl (2)]
78. PFC Hayes identified himself as the individual in Position #6. [Encl (2)]
79. The Genaust film and the Rosenthal photograph taken after the flag raisers have raised the flag to a perpendicular position clearly indicate the individual in Position #6 is PFC Hayes (see Figure 5). [Encl (6)]
80. The del Valle report concluded that "The need for haste in identifying the participants (in order that they be present for the 7th War Loan Drive) precluded a more thorough investigation originally." This haste caused confusion as to the identity of the flag raisers. [Encl (2)]

81. PhM2c Bradley wrote to his parents on 26 February 1945, "I had a little to do with raising the American flag and it was the happiest moment of my life." [Ref (h), p. 216]

82. PhM2c Bradley wrote to MajGen del Valle on 26 December 1946, "Things happened so fast I didn't think much of this flag raising until we returned to the U.S. from Iwo Jima." [Encl (2)]

## Opinions

1. Previous attempts to accurately identify the flag raisers in Mr. Rosenthal's iconic photograph were complicated by the death of key participants, the stress of combat, the lack of recognition as to the significance of the second flag raising at the time of its occurrence, the haste to include the flag raisers in the 7th War Loan Drive, and the subsequent passage of time. [FF 29, 80, 82]
2. The April 1945 effort to comply with the directive to immediately return the flag raisers in Mr. Rosenthal's iconic photograph and have them participate in the 7th War Loan Drive resulted in Marine Corps officials incorrectly identifying some of the second flag raisers. [FF 80]
3. PhM2c Bradley, PFC Hayes, and PFC Gagnon may have felt pressured to maintain PFC Gagnon's original identification of the flag raisers in support of the 7th War Loan Drive. [FF 80]
4. The traumatic injuries PhM2c Bradley sustained in combat on 12 March 1945 may have resulted in him not thinking further about the flag raising or his role in it until after his return to the United States. [FF 29]
5. PhM2c Bradley may have conflated his participation in the first flag raising with the second flag raising. [FF 29, 81, 82]
6. The individual in Position #1 is Cpl Harlon Block. [FF 1, 16, 34, 35]
7. The individual in Position #2 is PFC Rene Gagnon. [FF 4, 16, 31, 44, 45, 46, 47]
8. The individual in Position #3 is not PhM2c John Bradley. [FF 50, 52, 53, 54, 55]
9. The individual in Position #3 is PFC Franklin R. Sousley. [FF 1, 16, 32, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55]
10. The individual in Position #4 is not PhM2c Bradley. [FF 56, 58, 59, 61, 63, 65]
11. The individual associated with Position #4 in the Genaust film is Sgt Strank. [FF 1, 16, 32, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66]
12. During the first break in the Genaust film, Sgt Strank placed a helmet on top of the soft cover on his head. [FF 63, 64, 66]
13. The individual in Position #4 is Sgt Strank. [FF 1, 16, 32, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66]
14. The individual in Position #5 is not PFC Franklin Sousley. [FF 50, 51, 53, 54, 55]
15. The individual in Position #5 is PFC Harold Schultz. [FF 2, 13, 32, 33, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75]
16. The Board has no opinion as to why PFC Schultz never identified himself as a flag raiser.

17. The individual in Position #6 is PFC Ira Hayes. [FF 1, 16, 32, 77, 78, 79]

18. PhM2c Bradley participated in the first flag raising and remained atop Mount Suribachi throughout the second flag raising. [FF 8, 9, 12, 32, 81]

19. The opinion of the Board is that the identification of the second flag raisers is as depicted in Figure 7. [FF 1-82]



Figure 7: The Huly Board Determination of the Identities of the Six Flag Raisers in Mr. Rosenthal's Photograph

### Recommendations

1. That the records of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps reflect the identification of the individuals in the photograph as follows:
  - a. Position #1 Cpl Harlon Block
  - b. Position #2 PFC Rene Gagnon
  - c. Position #3 PFC Franklin Sousley
  - d. Position #4 Sgt Michael Strank
  - e. Position #5 PFC Harold Schultz
  - f. Position #6 PFC Ira Hayes
2. That the Commandant of the Marine Corps should inform the Secretary of the Navy, Chief of Naval Operations, and Medical Officer of the Marine Corps of the results of this Board before they are made public.
3. That the Commandant of the Marine Corps should inform the appropriate relatives of Cpl Harlon Block, PFC Rene Gagnon, PFC Franklin Sousley, Sgt Michael Strank, PFC Harold Schultz, PFC Ira Hayes, and PhM2c John Bradley of the results of this Board before they are made public.
4. That the Commandant of the Marine Corps should issue a public statement regarding the correct identification of the second flag raisers. This statement should include acknowledgement of the collective efforts of all who contributed to telling the story of the sacrifices and heroic achievements of all Marines, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen during the battle of Iwo Jima.
5. That the Commandant of the Marine Corps recognize that all previous efforts at identification were conducted in good faith and that no official blame be assessed for previous inaccuracies in the historical record.
6. That the Commandant of the Marine Corps direct that this Board report and associated records be deposited in the Marine Corps History Division's archives.
7. That the Office of Legislative Affairs should inform appropriate Members of Congress and congressional staff of the results of this Board before they are made public.
8. That Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps should make public the findings of this Board.
9. That the Commandant of the Marine Corps should coordinate the public release of the findings of this Board with the Office of U.S. Marine Corps Communication.

10. That the National Museum of the Marine Corps and other Marine Corps monuments, displays, and educational programs should be updated to reflect the correct identification of the second flag raisers.

(b)(6)

JAN C. HULY  
LtGen, USMC (Ret)  
President of the Board

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