



# Marine Corps League

## Westfield River Valley

### Detachment 141

Westfield, Massachusetts 01085

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Marine League To Honor Iwo Jima Vets

AGAWAM, Mass.—Three survivors of Iwo Jima will be honored by Westfield River Valley Detachment 141, Marine Corps League on Sunday, February 19, the 67th anniversary of the World War II battle.

The ceremony will be held at 1PM in the second deck dining hall at Heritage Hall West, 61 Cooper St., according to Det. 141 Commandant John S. Rutovich. "These are the remaining members of our detachment who landed on the island with more than 110,000 U.S. Marines."

To be honored at the ceremony are: Donald S. Dorrington of Cummington; Joseph F. Oleskiewicz of Westfield, a patient at Heritage Hall; and Donald F. Withee of West Springfield. Rutovich said any Iwo Jima survivor who wishes to attend the ceremony will be recognized. Marines, U.S. Navy corpsmen, and the public are invited.

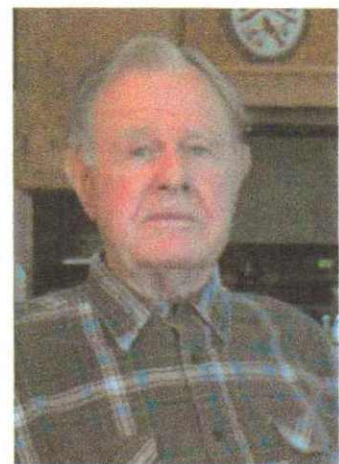
The 1945 battle for the Iwo Jima lasted 35 days and resulted in the deaths of 6,891 Marines and the wounding of more than 18,000, the highest casualty rate in Marine Corps history. The main objective was the three airfields on the island that were defended by 21,000 Japanese dug into deep underground caves they carved out of coral. Only 3,000 survived.



Donald S. Dorrington



Joseph F. Oleskiewicz



Donald F. Withee