

News Release
Sons of the American Revolution
Texas Society
McKinney Chapter
January 2019 Meeting

The Sons of the American Revolution, Texas Society McKinney Chapter, conducted their first monthly meeting of 2019 on January 17th at Spring Creek Barbeque in McKinney. Our honored guest and speaker was Donald Graves, U.S. Marine Corp, Retired. Don was on Iwo Jima, and more specifically to his story, Mount Suribachi during WWII. Don was close to the US Flag raising event that took place on top of the mountain. Don spoke to the audience about his life and the impact WWII had on it. Don talked about the circumstances surrounding the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi, and the Japanese response. He talked about the strategic importance of capturing this island to the United States and the lives that were saved as a result.



Don remembered the 7,000 Marines that died during the island's capture. He spoke of his initial landing on the island as a flamethrower carrying a 70-pound gasoline container on his back. When he literally hit the beach face down in the black sand he told God if he would let him survive, he would follow him for the rest of his life. He recalled multiple instances he experienced while capturing the island one of which resulted in him cursing God. Don was in a 600-man company that landed on the island. When the mission was complete there were only 17 survivors! One-third of all the Marines killed in World War II were killed on Iwo Jima.

After the War, Don discussed how his life and marriage were in shambles until he went to a Billy Graham meeting where he remembered the pledge he made of God on that black Iwo Jima beach. He turned his life around, repaired his marriage, and became a minister. He closed by leading the audience in the song "God Bless America".

The Chapter also presented the SAR War Service Medal to Ronald L. Smith, the SAR Past President Metal to Nathan E. White Jr. and all Viet Nam veterans in the audience with the Congressional Viet Nam Veteran Lapel Pin. Authorized by

Congress to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Viet Nam War. Any Veteran who served in Viet Nam from the period of 1965 to 1973 is authorized to wear this pen.



For more information on the McKinney Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, see our website at www.mckinneysar.org.