

U.S. Marine Corps CPL Morris Joseph Bernard *Died February 19th, 1945*



Morris Bernard grew up in Sunol and went to high school at Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, where he lettered playing center on the football team. Shortly after graduating in 1943 he went into the Marines.

Morris eventually ended up in the Pacific in the 5th Marine Division. He would find himself part of the landing/invasion force targeting the little island of Iwo Jima.



On February 19, 1945 the Marines came ashore on a long black sandy beach on the southern side of the island. The 4th & 5th Marines fought their way from shore to shore cutting Iwo in half and separating Mt. Suribachi from the rest of the island. By night fall, the Marines were firmly ashore but suffered heavy losses of 2400 casualties, including 600 dead. CPL Morris Bernard would unfortunately be among the dead on the first day of the invasion.



Amphibious tractors approaching Iwo Jima, February 1945

The following are the notification and recognition of his service:



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDANT'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON

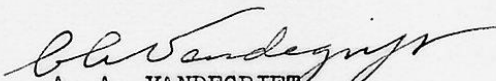
17 March, 1945.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Bernard:

It is a source of profound regret to me and to his comrades in the Marine Corps that your son, Corporal Morris Joseph Bernard, United States Marine Corps Reserve, lost his life in action against the enemies of his country and I wish to express my deepest sympathy to you and members of your family in your great loss.

There is little I can say to lessen your grief but it is my earnest hope that the knowledge of your son's splendid record in the service and the thought that he nobly gave his life in the performance of his duty may in some measure comfort you in this sad hour.

Sincerely yours,


A. A. VANDEGRIFT,
Lieutenant General, U.S.M.C.,
Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bernard,
Box 112,
Sunol, California.



IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF
Morris Joseph Bernard
United States Marine Corps

WHO DIED IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY AT

Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 19 February 1945

HE STANDS IN THE UNBROKEN LINE OF PATRIOTS WHO HAVE DARED TO DIE

THAT FREEDOM MIGHT LIVE, AND GROW, AND INCREASE ITS BLESSINGS.

FREEDOM LIVES, AND THROUGH IT, HE LIVES—

IN A WAY THAT HUMBLER THE UNDERTAKINGS OF MOST MEN

Franklin D. Roosevelt

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA