

# Bluffton Today

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## FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, DON'T LIGHT A FIRE

Bug-eating chimney swifts are good, if noisy, things to have around the home. **Page 12**

Volume 2, Number 124 • **COMING TOMORROW:** When a peach cobbler recipe says it never fails, Annelore Harrell knows to fear the worst.



### NEWS

## Tabby Roads still months from building

But infrastructure construction is under way at 13.51-acre downtown development.

BY RICHARD BROOKS  
BLUFFTON TODAY

Houses will start "coming out of the ground" at Tabby Roads early next year, predicts developer Jerry Reeves IV.

The Bluffton Historic Preservation Commission got a sneak peek at drawings by Cadman Designs LLC last week.

But Reeves said the plans were prematurely submitted because a Tabby Roads review board should see them first.

"They were just trying to get conceptual review," he said. "We'll try to work with them along with the town so they can get simultaneous approval."

Nevertheless, the commissioners were impressed with elevation drawings by Mark Cadman

SEE 'TABBY' ON PAGE 4

## FLAG RAISING

A Moss Creek Marine was there when Joe Rosenthal took his famous Iwo Jima photo.

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Photos by Kim Rose with Bluffton Today



BELOW

World War II veteran Monroe Boaz talks in his Moss Creek home Wednesday about serving at Saipan and Iwo Jima during the war.

ON THE COVER (Clockwise from bottom left)

This photo of Monroe Boaz, second from right, was taken in New York City with his two brothers, Charles, right, and Bill others and performed a two-and-a-half hour variety show. Boaz is shown here impersonating Franklin Delano Roosevelt his memories of fighting in the Marine Corps at Saipan and Iwo Jima during World War II, and photos from his military



# MEMORIES OF IWO

## Monroe Boaz lived through hell in World War II, but he says he wouldn't trade it for today's fight.

**H**unkered in a shell hole on one of Iwo Jima's landing beaches, Marine Cpl. Monroe Boaz watched as the Stars and Stripes went up on the island's Mount Suribachi.

And then came down. And went back up. And came down again. Up, down, up, down.

"We looked at each other and said, 'What are they doing, playing around?' They put that little flag up, took it down, put it up. They were playing around up there."

They weren't, of course. What Boaz was seeing was the precursor to arguably the most famous American photo of the 20th Century—Joe Rosenthal's picture of Marines raising a giant flag atop Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945.

The "little flag" Boaz and his comrades were watching was deemed too small. A much-larger flag was sent from a ship offshore. A pole was found somewhere. Six Marines joined in to set it up. Rosenthal snapped his pictures.

Down below, where Boaz watched from his hole, all was chaos.

"I just thought the island was secured," Boaz said Wednesday, comfortably lounging in his home at Moss Creek. "They did it especially for that. The roar that went up! Every ship in the harbor, there must have been 500 ships that blew their whistles. The screams and yelling, it was like a hallgame, the sound of the yells and screaming, which we all did. And there were a lot of four-letter words."

"They put it up and it stayed up."

The battle wasn't over, of course. It was only the fourth day of a 36-day slugfest between 22,000 Japanese soldiers and the 4th Marine Division.

We won. They lost. Boaz survived.

Born in New York City, Boaz was a 21-year-old railroad worker in the Bronx when the war broke out. He tried to join

STORY BY  
BY ROB DEWIG  
BLUFFTON TODAY



PHOTOS BY  
KIM ROWLAND  
BLUFFTON TODAY



"Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima" by Joe Rosenthal

the Marines — an uncle had served with the Corps in China — but his mother would have none of it.

When he received his draft notice, though, his mother relented — he could join the Corps as a volunteer, because he'd have to serve somewhere, anyway.

Penn Station to Yemassee, Yemassee to Parris Island. Southern drill instructors quickly let the "Yankee" boy know he was far from home, that he was theirs now.

"They were rough," Boaz admits.

A year of training followed — at Parris Island, at Camp Pendleton, elsewhere. Boaz was assigned to the 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division.

Saipan was first on the 4th's list of things to do. Boaz boarded the USS Leonard Wood in Maui. Amazingly, it was his Coast Guardsman brother's ship. A Washington Post photographer snapped their photo together in the ship's gun turret; the outline called them "brothers in arms."

Boaz still has the photo.

The 4th hit Saipan in June, 1944. Boaz joined the others, clambering over the ship's side on rope ladders and splashing ashore under fire. Forty days of hell followed.

Boaz led a patrol through Saipan's jungles searching for a lost 2nd Battalion command post. They found a cave with Japanese equipment outside. Ignoring an officer's command to go down and get it, Boaz instead threw a couple grenades into the cave.

Five surviving Japanese soldiers, four women and a 2-week-old infant came coughing out.

"They were in that cave 40 or 50 days," he said. He got a latex glove from a Navy Corpsman, poked a hole in a finger and filled the glove with milk for the baby.

You can tell Boaz is as proud of that as anything he did in the Corps.

"That's one story I tell all the time," he said.

He saw all the horrors of war

on Saipan. He helped kill "50 Japanese soldiers in five seconds" when the enemy charged a 30-caliber machine gun.

"Bap, bap, bap — they're dead," he said.

He watched frightened Japanese women leap off cliffs, their babies in their arms. He watched comrades get blown to atoms.

When they re-boarded the ship 40 days later, just 1,000 of the 3,000 originally on board were still with him.

Boaz went to a hospital, where the amateur impersonator wound up as the opening act one night for Bob Hope. He went to Maui, rejoined the 4th, and shipped out for Iwo Jima.

Forty days on Iwo's black sand beaches and Boaz was done. He shipped out for home. He got out of the Corps on Nov. 15, 1945. He had been offered a sergeant's stripes if he reenlisted, but his mother needed help. Boaz stayed home.

He worked for the railroad, then took a job selling commercial carpeting. Later, he opened his own company, eventually laying carpet and tile on several floors of New York's World Trade Center. It was his tile on the Towers' observation deck when the latest war broke out.

He retired 30 years ago. He moved to Moss Creek 11 years later.

Boaz watches today's Marines with admiration.

"It's altogether different," he said. "I wouldn't want to be in this (war). They really have a tough job."

Boaz is happy his Moss Creek Marines group has "adopted" a company of Marines in Iraq. They'll ship them a pile of phone cards soon.

"I know what it's like to be in combat and to hear from home, communication from home is really important — very, very important," he said.

"We couldn't send a letter for months."



id Richmond, second from left. After serving at Saipan, Monroe Boaz traveled with sevelet. Memorabilia spread out in front of him, Monroe Boaz talks Wednesday about itary days during World War II fill a scrapbook made for Monroe Boaz' 85th birthday.

**LEARN MORE**  
For more on the battle for Iwo Jima, see the Web site [www.iiwojima.com](http://www.iiwojima.com)

WASHINGTON POST, SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 1943

A newspaper clipping from The Washington Post on Sunday, March 21, 1943, has been placed together with tape. The caption reads, "Symbolic of the spirit of camaraderie that exists between the 'brothers in arms' of the four armed services, these two brothers stand aboard a Coast Guard transport following a chance meeting. They are Monroe J. Boaz, a Marine, (left) and Charles O. Boaz, Jr., a Coast Guardsman, sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Boaz. A third son, Richmond, is in the Army."



Symbolic of the spirit of camaraderie between the "brothers in arms" of the four armed services, these two brothers stand aboard a Coast Guard transport following a chance meeting. They are Monroe J. Boaz, a Marine, (left) and Charles O. Boaz, Jr., a Coast Guardsman, sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Boaz.

**About Iwo**

Located 650 miles from the Japanese mainland, Iwo Jima is a 7.5-square-mile pile of volcanic sand. The Japanese vowed to defend it as part of their homeland; the Americans needed it as a base for short-range fighters to escort heavy bombers for attacks on Tokyo and elsewhere.

The Japanese stationed 22,000 men on the tiny island, in tunnels, caves and "pill boxes" outfitted with cannons and machine guns. On Feb. 19, 1945, the Americans invaded.

The island became a living hell for 36 days. No one was safe. The island was so tiny everyone was under fire all the time, even though many Marines never saw a Japanese soldier.

Joe Rosenthal took his famous flag photo on Feb. 23 atop Iwo's Mount Suribachi. By battle's end, nearly every Japanese soldier was dead. The Americans lost 25,851 men altogether, including 6,825 killed. Most of the casualties were Marines.

After the battle, the island became a vital link in America's bombing campaign against Japan. In all, 2,400 B-29s made emergency landings on the island's airstrips.



Source: [iiwojima.com](http://iiwojima.com)

**The Moss Creek Marines**

Founded late last year, the Moss Creek Marines are 28 former Marines, two former Navy corpsmen, a Marine Corps widow and a mother whose son serves with today's Marines in Iraq.

They came together to plan a membership party to celebrate the Corps' Nov. 10 birthday last year, but were unable to organize it in time. They're planning a party for this November now.

The group has since "adopted" the 80

Marines of the 2nd Recon Battalion, Alpha Co., Unit 76678, stationed in Iraq. One of the unit's Marines is the son-in-law of one of the Moss Creek Marines.

The Moss Creek Marines asked what their active duty brethren would like. "If they had to have one thing, it was their choice to have calling cards," said MCM commander Roger Garreau.

The Moss Creek Marines are contributing individually, but Garreau invites public donations as well. To help, call Garreau at 836-2240 or e-mail him at [lorogar@hargray.com](mailto:lorogar@hargray.com), or call MCM Treasurer Bill Mott at 837-5086.

**He does Bogey, too**

His left hand infected after the battle of Saipan, Marine Cpl. Monroe Boaz was sent to a hospital in New Caledonia in the South Pacific.

Bob Hope came to town. Boaz, who had gained a reputation around the hospital for his impersonations, was invited to open the show for the famous comedian.

Naturally, he did — belting out his versions of James Cagney and Franklin D. Roosevelt, maybe 30 voices in all.

Boaz performed once with Hope, but did about 70 shows of his own at hospitals throughout the Pacific as he recuperated.

His pay? "I got two cases of beer for the guys I was in the hospital with." By February, he was on his way to Iwo Jima.