

Shenandoah Valley Young Marines Assist at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Iwo Jima Memorial

In honor of the 65th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, a wreath laying ceremony was held at the Marine Corps War Memorial, better known as the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, on Feb 23, 2010. The President's own Marine Corps Band performed and the 8th and I Silent Drill team was present. Ret Col. Mike Kessler, Executive Director of the Young Marine Program, hosted the event. Some of the Winchester Elks Lodge Shenandoah Valley Young Marines were in attendance to escort the guests and wounded service members to their seats. Honored guests included: LtGen Thiessen; Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps, BGen Garrett; Medal of Honor recipient; Col. Barney Barnum; Senator Mark Warner and his father, Mr. Warner, as well as Iwo Jima survivors and wounded warriors. LtGen Thiessen addressed the audience and presented the Iwo Jima survivors with a vial containing some of the sand from Iwo Jima for their boots. The Young Marines felt truly honored to have been invited to participate in this historical event and will treasure their time spent with these American Heroes.



One of the Young Marines talks to the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps



A Young Marine talks to a wounded warrior



Group photo with Medal of Honor recipient, Col. Barney Barnum



Group photo with State Senator Mark Warner and his father



A Young Marine seats the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps



Group photo with the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps