

**Admiral Nimitz Foundation  
Fredericksburg, Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Admiral Nimitz Foundation Remembers Medal of Honor Recipient George Wahlen**  
*Veteran's Actions on Iwo Jima Tell a Story of Bravery, Loyalty and Self-sacrifice*

**Fredericksburg, Texas (June 10, 2009)** - The Admiral Nimitz Foundation remembers Medal of Honor recipient George Wahlen, a friend of the National Museum of the Pacific War. Mr. Wahlen, an American hero from the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945, passed away Friday, June 5, 2009. He was 84 years-old.

Mr. Wahlen, then a 20 year-old Navy Corpsman assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, was a part of the initial invasion of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. During the first days of the ferocious battle for a bleak volcanic rock, he was seriously injured three separate times but refused to leave the battlefield. Again and again he crawled to wounded Marines. Said Mr. Wahlen in an interview for the Salt Lake Tribune, "When you've been with these guys, they're like family. You don't want to let them down." He was credited with saving countless lives.

On Iwo, observed Admiral Chester Nimitz, "uncommon valor was a common virtue." George Wahlen's valor on Iwo was recognized with the award of the Medal of Honor on October 5, 1945, while he was hospitalized at Camp Pendleton, California. It was presented by President Harry S. Truman.

Fellow Iwo Jima survivor and Medal of Honor recipient Herschel "Woody" Williams remembered his friend, "I knew George Wahlen for over 63 years. He was truly a humble man and from our first association I got the impression that he loved people. He cared for people and that was evident by his demeanor. He was always soft spoken, sincere and positive. He deeply cared for his country, his family and his friends. He was a true hero and yet was just a true friend. The world needs many more George Wahlen's"

Says friend Helen McDonald, Director of Programs at the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, "His interest in his family, his country and his community is an example we should all follow. He was such an inspiring person."

After World War II Mr. Wahlen enlisted in the Army and served in this service during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He retired with the rank of Major. He then went on to a career with the Department of Veterans Affairs where he continued to serve our country and other veterans for 14 years. <sup>1</sup>

Son Brock Wahlen said in an interview with ksl.com, "My dad was a quiet, humble man. He didn't want much attention. If you were to ask my dad today, if he were here, he would say this is not about him. It's about the veterans who served everywhere, specifically those who did not return, that paid the ultimate sacrifice."

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<sup>1</sup> Ksl.com

The National Museum of the Pacific War, a Texas Historical Commission property operated by the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, is located in Fredericksburg, Texas, and is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater of World War II. In telling the story of the Pacific War it works to keep the memory of countless sacrifices alive for future generations.

Located on a six-acre site, the facility includes the George H.W. Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Plaza of the Presidents, the Memorial Courtyard, Japanese Garden of Peace, Pacific Combat Zone and the Center for Pacific War Studies.

Originally named the Admiral Nimitz Museum and housed solely in the historic Nimitz Hotel, the Museum has grown into a dynamic, first-class experience that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and from all backgrounds, a great family educational experience. In addition to nearly 34,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space, the Museum boasts an impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other large artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns.

An additional 40,000 square-foot expansion will be celebrated with a Grand Re-Opening on December 7, 2009. Visit us at [www.Nimitz-Museum.org](http://www.Nimitz-Museum.org)