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# ROLL CALL

March 2022 Newsletter

**RSVP By Sunday, March 20th—email [info@roll-call.org](mailto:info@roll-call.org) or call 817-507-5879**

**LUNCHEON—Friday, March 25th**

**MARCH LUNCHEON SPEAKER—Don Graves**



Don is a survivor of the Battle of Iwo Jima, the bloody South Pacific battle that killed thousands of American and Japanese fighting men in World War II. The battle began on Feb. 19, 1945, when Marines landed on the southeastern beaches of the island. It ended March 26 with 6,821 Americans killed and nearly 20,000 wounded. Graves, at 5-foot-6 inches and 145 pounds, carried a 72-pound flamethrower on his back and a .45-caliber pistol on his hip during the battle as a member of the 5th Marine Division, one of three Marine divisions that assaulted Iwo Jima. Their orders: Secure the island and its three airfields. And secure it they did! When he and his unit assembled to leave the island, 18 of the 335 men in his unit who hit the beach with him were left. At their officer’s suggestion, they visited the island’s cemetery to pay their respects to their fallen comrades.

Graves’ path to the foot of Mount Suribachi began after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Like most young men in America, Graves felt a duty to enlist. At the age of 17, he quit school and went to the Marine Recruiting office. He felt there was no time to wait. Our nation needed to be protected and as Don says, “No. 1, we were patriots – it was drilled into us”.

Come out and hear this incredible story!

## UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

April 22—Speaker Vietnam Veteran and POW, Ken Cordier - On Base Event

May 27—Speaker TBD

June 24—Speaker TBD



## April 22nd Luncheon News

The April 22nd luncheon will take place on the Joint Reserve Base!

Those attending the March luncheon will have a form to fill out so we can gather the information needed to get people on base. Those who are unable to attend the March luncheon but would like to attend the April luncheon can email us at [info@roll-call.org](mailto:info@roll-call.org) to get the form to complete.

### Here's what you need to know:

RSVPs will be absolutely necessary for all! Not just veterans, but all spouses, guests, volunteers, etc.

If you do NOT RSVP you will NOT get on base unless you have an ID card that allows base access.

Arriving early is STRONGLY recommended as the gate can back up.

We will have two 15 passenger vans that can take people to the base from the church. To use this option, please include that in your April RSVP. We don't want to leave anyone behind.

## Prayers for those caught in the War in Ukraine

This group understands the impact of war on the civilian population better than most. It affects more than just those directly involved. The people of Ukraine are being hit the hardest. Their entire way of life has been decimated. Their homes and businesses leveled. Their people forced to make difficult choices. Many in Russia do not support this war. The impending collapse of their economy will hit those who can't afford it the hardest. The surrounding countries: Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and many others, have taken in and are caring for Ukrainian refugees. They are feeling the impact. War affects all of us in one way or another. Please join us in praying for peace.

## Medal of Honor Museum Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking will be live streamed on Friday, March 25th, shortly before our luncheon begins.

We believe the time is 0930-1030 (will confirm)

We plan to livestream it as luncheon attendees are coming in.

If you would like to witness the entire ceremony (which will be amazing), please arrive at Birchman early enough to do so!



If you are interested in volunteering to help see the memorial move forward, please reach out to: <https://www.vieteramemorial.org/>

## Why is it recommended that we RSVP to [info@roll-call.org](mailto:info@roll-call.org) or call 817-507-5879?

Sometimes computers are finicky. When you "reply" to the email with the newsletter, your RSVP is in a group of sometimes 20 or 30 others. It can get lost in the shuffle. If you RSVP via email and do NOT receive a reply back, it is highly likely it got lost. If you RSVP by phone and would like a response, leave that in the message (along with your name) also.

## Upcoming Events

April 30th—Hops & Props—FW Aviation Museum—12-5pm

June 11th—2nd Annual Roll Call Benefit Gala—Details to come soon!

June 25th—The National Vietnam War Museum Grand Opening Ceremony—Mineral Wells—10am

**As a reminder: Only service animals may be brought into the luncheon.**

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Website: <https://roll-call.org>



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