

Charles W. Tatum
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Mr. Clinton J. Butler
1004 Wandering Way
Austin, Texas 78754-2041

Dear Mr. Butler:

I want to thank you for your order and kind comments on my book, Iwo Jima Red Blood Black Sand. Your brother, Lt. Col. John A. Butler was one of the finest men and Marine officers I ever knew. He was my personal hero before Iwo Jima. I admired him from afar. His leadership during our training and in combat at Iwo Jima upheld the highest honor and traditions of the Marine Corps. I felt a personal loss, when the word of his death passed down the line. Other Marines in B Company told me they, too, felt a great personal loss.

I did a lot of research on your brother, the Marine Corps supplied me with his record; his sons, John II, Morey and Clinton were of immense help to me and the writing of this book. A lot of credit for the book is owed to John A. Butler III, whose help and encouragement made the book possible.

I am aware that your brother received the nation's second highest decoration, the Navy Cross for his actions and leadership while serving as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 27th Marines, Fifth Marine Division. It should have been a Medal of Honor.

I had intended to list all of the 1st Battalions 27th Marines medal awards in an epilogue, but I had so much to tell and the size of the book had already been set, that I ran out of room for the chapter.

In closing, I want to salute your brother, Lt. Col. John A. Butler as one of the real American heroes of the battle of Iwo Jima.

Semper Fi,

Pfc. Charles W. Tatum
B Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Division