

SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL™ REVEALS IDENTITY OF PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN
MARINE PICTURED IN ICONIC WORLD WAR II PHOTO

THE UNKNOWN FLAG RAISER OF IWO JIMA

PREMIERES SUNDAY, JULY 3 AT 9 P.M. ET/PT ON SMITHSONIAN CHANNEL



NEW YORK – JUNE 23, 2016 – For over 70 years, the iconic flag-raising photograph at Iwo Jima has been one of the most reproduced images in history, inspiring books, movies and the Marine Corps War Memorial in Washington, DC. In a new one-hour Smithsonian Channel special, the United States Marine Corps will confirm the identity of a previously unknown flag raiser on Iwo Jima. Forensic evidence provided by Smithsonian Channel and production company Lucky 8 TV reveals that unsung hero U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. and Purple Heart recipient Harold Schultz was one of the flag raisers in Joe Rosenthal's famed Iwo Jima photo taken on February 23, 1945. The full forensic investigation unfolds with never-before-seen evidence in [THE UNKNOWN FLAG RAISER OF IWO JIMA](#), premiering Sunday, July 3 at 9 p.m. ET/PT on Smithsonian Channel.

The documentary also reveals that Navy Corpsman John "Doc" Bradley – the focus of the book and film *Flags of Our Fathers* – is not in the iconic photo, but actually participated in the first and lesser-known flag raising on Iwo Jima.

THE UNKNOWN FLAG RAISER OF IWO JIMA details the journeys of two feature film military technical advisors, two amateur historians, and an *Omaha World-Herald* reporter who joined forces to press for an official investigation into the iconic photograph in order to correctly identify all servicemen pictured. It also chronicles the story of the month-long battle and the men behind the iconic image, solidifying Pfc. Harold Schultz's place in history.

“It is a privilege for Smithsonian Channel to play a role in revealing the full truth about one of the most iconic moments in American history,” said David Royle, Executive Vice President of Programming and Production, Smithsonian Channel. “We hope that this remarkable story of detective work and military courage will remind us again of the sacrifice of the Greatest Generation. The discovery of this unknown flag-raiser highlights the modesty of these courageous men – it is extraordinary that Schultz took his secret to the grave.”

Added Lucky 8 TV Co-Founder and Executive Producer Kim Woodard, “It’s an incredible honor for Lucky 8 to partner with the Marine Corps and Smithsonian Channel to share with viewers this story of service and reluctant valor. We are proud to have produced a project that celebrates Pfc. Schultz and the 70,000 servicemen who all played a part in raising that flag on Iwo Jima.”

Questions first arose in 2005 when retired Marine Sgt. Maj. James Dever, while working as an advisor on Clint Eastwood’s film *Flags of Our Fathers*, spotted inconsistencies in the gear worn by the individual identified as “John Bradley” in the photo. Then, in 2014, while working on the Oscar®-winning film *American Sniper*, Dever and fellow retired Marine Lt. Col. Matthew Morgan began exploring Dever’s findings further. Several months later, the *Omaha World-Herald* broke a story highlighting the work of two amateur historians – Eric Krelle of Omaha, Nebraska and Stephen Foley of Ireland – who, independently, had developed a theory regarding the men in the photograph, claiming they had discovered their true identities. Finally, Michael Plaxton, a board-certified forensic media analyst, was brought in to validate the findings that led to the identification of Schultz.

Schultz survived the brutal war in the Pacific, earning a Purple Heart, and later took a job with the U.S. Postal Service in the Chinatown area of Los Angeles. He never shared his story with the public. After his death in 1995, a copy of the famous picture was found among the few belongings he left behind.

THE UNKNOWN FLAG RAISER OF IWO JIMA is produced by Lucky 8 TV for Smithsonian Channel. Executive producers for Lucky 8 are Simon Boyce, Kim Woodard, Greg Henry and Isaac Holub. Joel Patterson also serves as executive producer for Letter 10 Productions. Executive producers for Smithsonian Channel are Tim Evans, Charles Poe and David Royle.

Smithsonian Channel™, owned by Smithsonian Networks™, a joint venture between Showtime Networks Inc. and the Smithsonian Institution, is where curiosity lives, inspiration strikes and wonders never cease. This is the place for awe-inspiring stories, powerful documentaries and amazing entertainment across multiple platforms. Smithsonian Channel combines the storytelling prowess of SHOWTIME® with the unmatched resources and rich traditions of the Smithsonian, to create award-winning programming that shines new light on popular genres such as air and space, history, science, nature, and pop culture. Among the network’s offerings are series

including *Aerial America*, *Million Dollar American Princesses*, *The Weapon Hunter*, *Mighty Ships*, *Mighty Planes* and *Air Disasters*, as well as critically-acclaimed specials that include *Civil War 360*, *9/11: The Heartland Tapes*; *MLK: The Assassination Tapes* and *The Day Kennedy Died*. Smithsonian Networks also operates Smithsonian Earth™, through SN Digital LLC., a new subscription video streaming service delivering spectacular original nature and wildlife content. To learn more, go to www.smithsonianchannel.com, or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Lucky 8 TV

LUCKY 8 TV is an unscripted film and television production company launched in 2014 by veteran producers and partners Kim Woodard, Greg Henry, Isaac Holub and George Kralovansky, whose combined skills fill the spectrum from comedy to science, and from blue-chip documentary to access-driven journalism. In just two years, Lucky 8 has produced a broad range of programming across a variety of networks and genres. Current series and event specials include *The Unknown Flag Raiser of Iwo Jima* and *Alaska Aircrash Investigations* for Smithsonian Channel; the top-rated, critically acclaimed *60 Days in* and *Behind Bars: Rookie Year* for A&E; *Kids BBQ Championship* for Food Network; and *3 Scientists Walk Into a Bar* for Weather Channel.

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