

War Survivors Unite in Remembrance and Reflection As Part of Veterans Day Line-Up on PBS



COURTESY OF MARK W. STEVENS
Tsuruji Akikusa, a radioman in the Imperial Japanese Navy, is one of fewer than a thousand Japanese defenders of Iwo Jima to survive the battle.



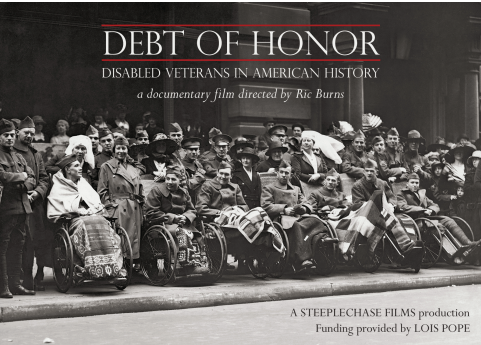
COURTESY OF DVIDS - U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY MCIPAC
A powerful handshake of friendship on the island of Iwo Jima on March 21, 2015. Japanese and American survivors of the fierce 1945 battle returned to the island for a Reunion of Honor on the only battlefield where former enemies come together in friendship.



COURTESY OF MARK W. STEVENS
Japanese veteran Tsuruji Akikusa (left), with Dan King (right), author of "A Tomb Called Iwo Jima," holding a Japanese flag that had been brought back to the U.S. as a souvenir during WWII. Mr. Akikusa was astonishingly able to locate the family of the man to whom it belonged.



COURTESY OF DVIDS - U.S. MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY MCIPAC
The Reunion of Honor was founded by Lt. General Lawrence Snowden, USMC (Ret.) - so that veterans from both sides could return to Iwo Jima - this time in peace. Despite being wounded twice during brutal combat, Snowden has sought friendship with his former enemies since the war's end.



COURTESY OF STEEPLECHASE FILMS

PBS will explore the lasting impact of war in new documentaries airing around Veterans Day. Through moving interviews with survivors from WWII to the War on Terror, the featured documentaries share personal stories from disabled veterans and reunited former enemies on opposite sides of the battlefield.

And although the programs will actually air before Veterans Day, those interested can purchase the videos for \$19.99 each by visiting shoppbs.org or calling 800-531-4727.

PBS is offering viewers the chance to take an unforgettable journey back to the iconic site of one of the fiercest battles of World War II. "Iwo Jima: From Combat to Comrades" is the powerful and moving story of American and Japanese servicemen who came together 70 years later for a historic reunion in March 2015. This island battlefield is the only former combat zone in the world that sees past enemies return as friends in a ceremony of peace and remembrance. "Flags of Our Fathers" actor

Ryan Phillippe will host.

A new documentary film by six-time Emmy Award-winning director Ric Burns titled, "Debt of Honor: Disabled Veterans in American History."

This film, examines the way in which the American government and society as a whole have regarded disabled veterans throughout history, beginning in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War and continuing through today's conflicts in the Middle East. The film combines

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COURTESY OF BETTMAN/CORBIS
An American soldier collapses in his hands from the strain of fighting along the Taegu front, South Korea, 1950.



COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Revolutionary War veteran Adam Link, photographed at age 102, 1864.



COURTESY OF THE OTIS HISTORICAL ARCHIVES
National Museum of Health and Medicine
A disabled veteran is taught woodworking as part of a vocational training program.



COURTESY OF STEEPLECHASE FILMS
J.R. Martinez, Private U.S. Army, ret. Author, Actor, Motivational Speaker

