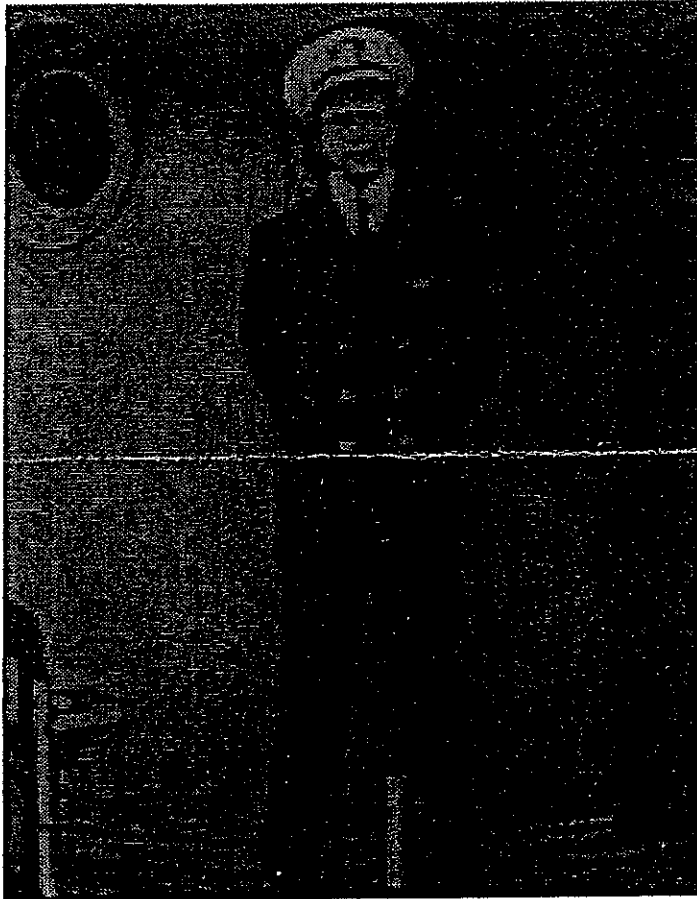


United States Navy Memorial Foundation



USS LCI(L) 1094 0000



**GRAHAM M.
WITHERSPOON JR.**

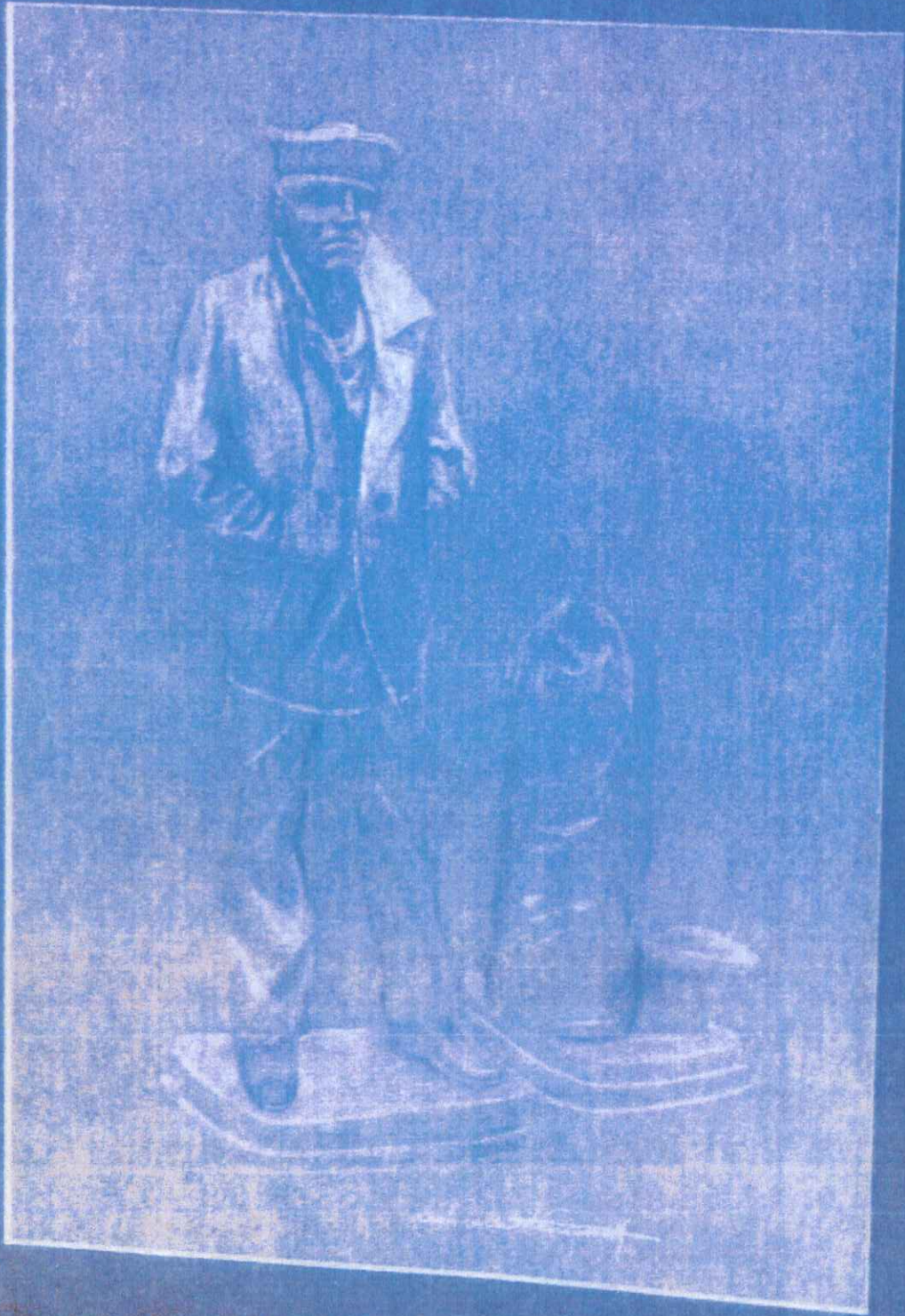
Born 10/29/1920
KANSAS CITY, MO

Rank
LT

Service Dates
01/1942 - 04/1959

Service Branch
USN

ART.....WITH.....PERSPECTIVE.....GRAHAM WITHERSPOON.



THE BATTLE FOR IWO JIMA.

ON FEB, 19, 1945, THE BATTLE FOR IWO JIMA BEGAN. THE ISLAND, SOME 4 MILES LONG AND 1½ MILES WIDE AT THE WIDEST POINT, IS FEATURED BY 556 FOOT MT. SURIBACHI AT ITS' SOUTHERNMOST POINT.

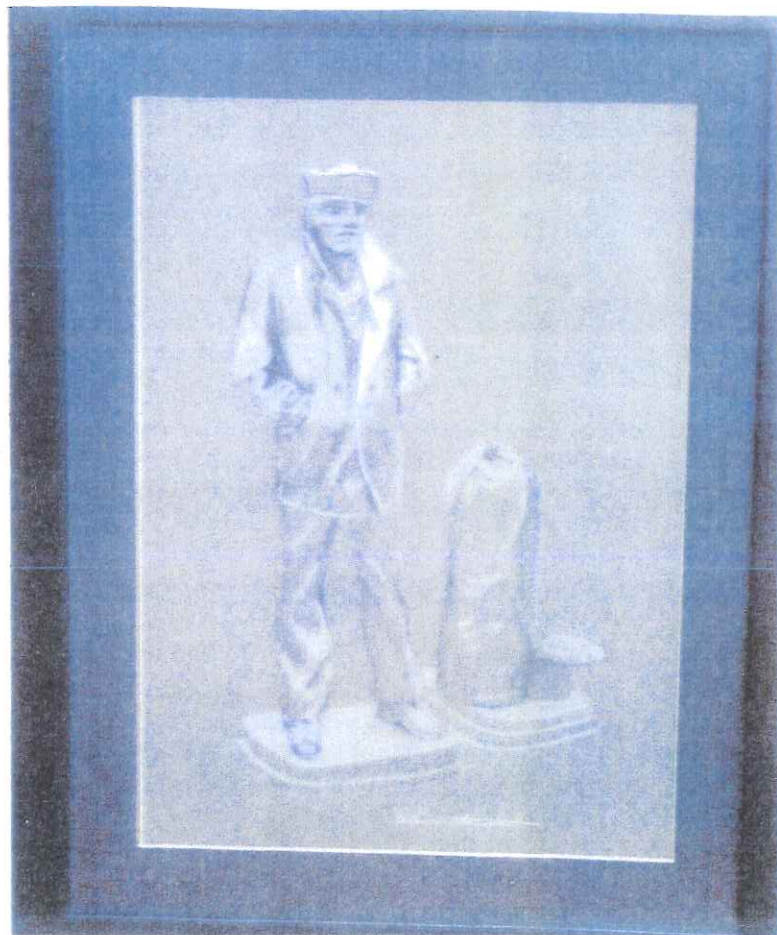
20,000 JAPANESE COMMANDED BY GENERAL TADAMICHI KURIBAYASHI ALL BUT A FEW DIED IN BATTLE. 6,821 AMERICANS, MOSTLY MARINES, WERE KILLED IN BATTLE. MARCH 14, 1945, THE ISLAND WAS PROCLAIMED SECURE, BUT SPORADIC EVENTS OCCURRED THEREAFTER.

ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF WWII WAS THE FLAG RAISING ON MT. SURIBACHI TAKEN BY PHOTOGRAPHER, JOE ROSENTHAL. TWO MOVIES, "FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS" AND "LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA" DEPICTED THE INTENSITY AND CARNAGE OF THIS BATTLE. THE FIRST MOVIE WAS FROM THE AMERICAN VIEW AND THE SECOND FROM THE JAPANESE.

A NAVY OFFICER WHOSE SHIP WAS FROM EARLY APRIL 1945, A STATION VESSEL AT IWO JIMA HAS USED HIS LATTER DAY ARTISTIC TALLENTS TO PORTRAY THE HISTORIC FLAG RAISING.



Lt Graham M Witherspoon
14105 E Radcliff Cir
Aurora CO 80015-1246





HOW WE MET.

As part of a Valentines Day festivity at Juniper Village Alzheimer's Facility.....Love Letters and Stories were presented by Care-Givers.

"How I met Pat....and/or....."How I met your mother."

The War was over. Three Naval Officers took their dates to the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco for dinner and dancing.

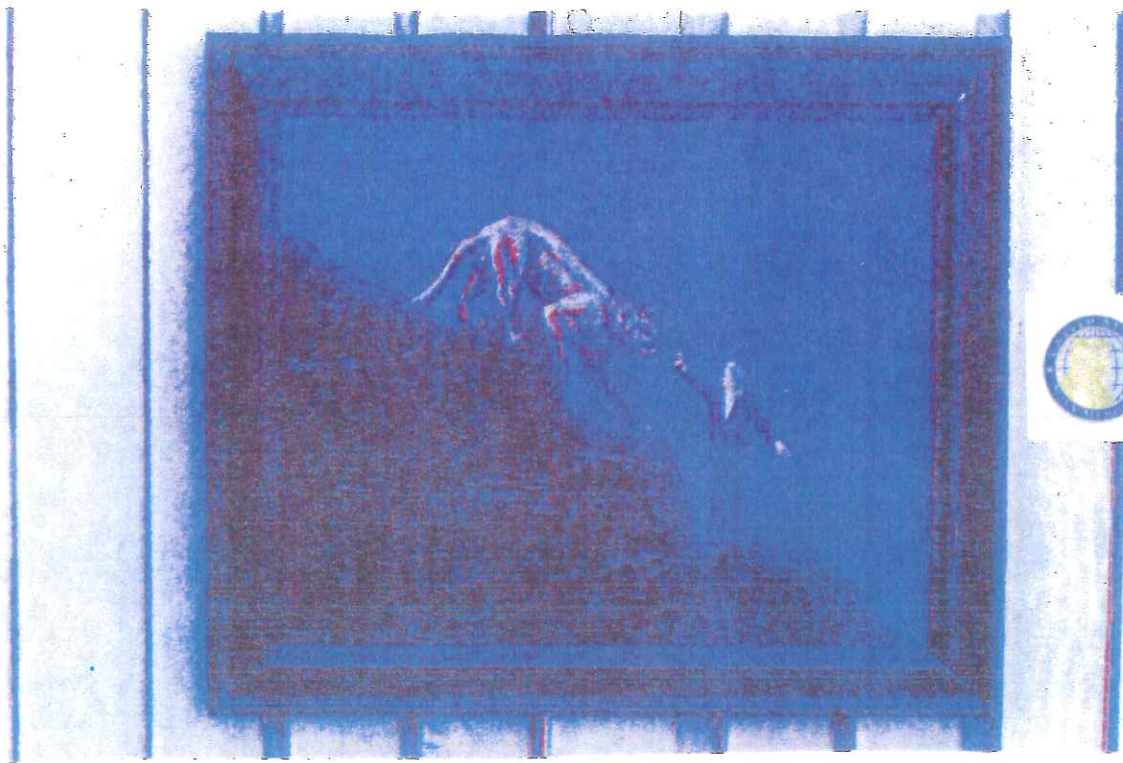
"Let's all have a French Seventy Five!" was the suggestion of one officer. A French Seventy Five was a cognac/champaign mix that was more tasty than dangerous. Only one at the table agreed.

The suggesting officer was much impressed and asked the young lady (another officer's date) to dance. And there on the dance floor in full view of her date - jotted down the young lady's phone number.

1½ months later the two were married.

A decade later on a visit to San Francisco, Pat and Graham re-celebrated by going to the Fairmont for a repeat, toasting the occasion by hoisting and downing two French Seventy Fives.





LT Graham M. Withe
USN
14105 E. Radcliff Cir.
Aurora, CO 80015-17

Having had two serious brain diseases in his family, it became important to undertake activities to alleviate the stress and sadness. Becoming an artist and author were the choices.

"The Taking Disease" This is a book that covers a most talented and accomplished lady. Vice President of a large real estate company in Houston, Ms. Senior Colorado 1993, Solo Dancer and Entertainer, Mountain Climber, wife and life companion of the author. "The Taking Disease" concerns the brain disease, Alzheimers. The author's wife has been a resident of an Alzheimer's facility since year 2004.

"The Cruellest Disease" With the IQ of a genius and written up in the book, "Who's Who Among American High School Students" the son of the author spent his adult years until death at age 49 as a patient in a state mental health hospital suffering the brain disease, "Schizophrenia".

"Four Icons" Author's artworks and prose highlight the lives of: Frank Sinatra, Albert Einstein, Thomas Jefferson, and John Paul Jones.

"No thing is forever" Philosophical treatise concerning changes that occur.

"A skeptic Questions Gods" Ancients created concepts and beliefs with little worldly knowledge. With scientific knowledge of today, questioning Gods created centuries ago is appropriate.

"Rhyme & Reason" This book is a compilation of many poems written within a lifetime. A highlight concerns a 42 page poetic narrative of an Arab and a Jew who kill each other to both go to heaven where they become the best of friends. God decides to send them as a team to earth to straighten out earthlings.

"The Adventurer" The author has been by choice involved with many many adventures. Sailor, Mountain Climber, White Water Canoist, Spelunker, Wilderness Trekker, etc. All have brought the great benefits of adventure. Artworks and Poetry highlight.

"Becoming an Artist - Salt for the Soul" Includes artwork and poetry

About the Author



Graham M. Witherspoon Jr. was born October 29, 1920. He is (or has been) a cowpoke, graduate of Missouri University, sailor, captain of a Navy ship in WWII, professional salesman and sales manager for 42 years, mountain climber, white water canoeist, adventurer, writer, artist, poet, philosopher, and advocate for those afflicted with two severe brain diseases: Alzheimer's and schizophrenia.

Graham is a dedicated husband and father who has watched his wife and son suffer from these two debilitating diseases and yet has risen above to write and teach about them to others.

Graham has "hit the high points" (meaning the mountain peaks) in over half of the United States. He has climbed 34 of Colorado's mountains over 14,000 feet in elevation. He has canoed nearly all the rivers in Texas including the Pecos and the Rio Grande.

Graham is not a particularly religious man, but has been assured by an angelic apparition that God is not particularly religious either.

He firmly believes that "Old sailors never die, they just keep on sailing".

And if I may editorialize on Graham's behalf, they also keep on writing, painting, climbing, hiking, philosophizing, caring, sharing, and believing.

Prince Henry, The Navigator. Portugal.

Graham Witherspoon, The Navigator. Aurora, Colorado.

Celestial Navigation. (prior to GPS) was essential for ship's at sea. Angles and Time were the determinates. The Navigator, sextant in hand, would sight upon celestial objects (stars, planets, sun., and moon) and shout "Mark!" for the benefit of the Quartermaster (whose watch was in sync with the ship's cronometer) The Quartermaster would then record angle of the object and time of sighting. The Navigator would then take these sightings to the Navigation Room to calculate location from lines of position of these various celestial objects.

The life at sea as Navy Ship Captain was important and included series of great adventures.

Those who relish Adventures seek out adventures.

G. W. The Adventurer.

SPELUNKER. Exploring caves long before open to the public.

WHITE WATER CANOING. included most all the rivers in Texas. Highlighted by a 4 day White Water Wildernes trip down the Pecos River Canyon, Two Day trip down the Rio Grande.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING. ³⁴ OF Colorado's 14ers and mountains in other states including the high points in over half of the states.

WILDERNESS TREKING. Back Packing throughout Colorado and other states. Included are treks along the Texas Trail, Colorado Trail, Appalachian Trail, etc Superstition Mountain searching for The Lost Dutchman's Mine. Rim to Rim across the Grand Canyon, etc.

FOR THE ADVENTURER.

Adventures are not options.....ADVENTURES ARE NECESSITIES!