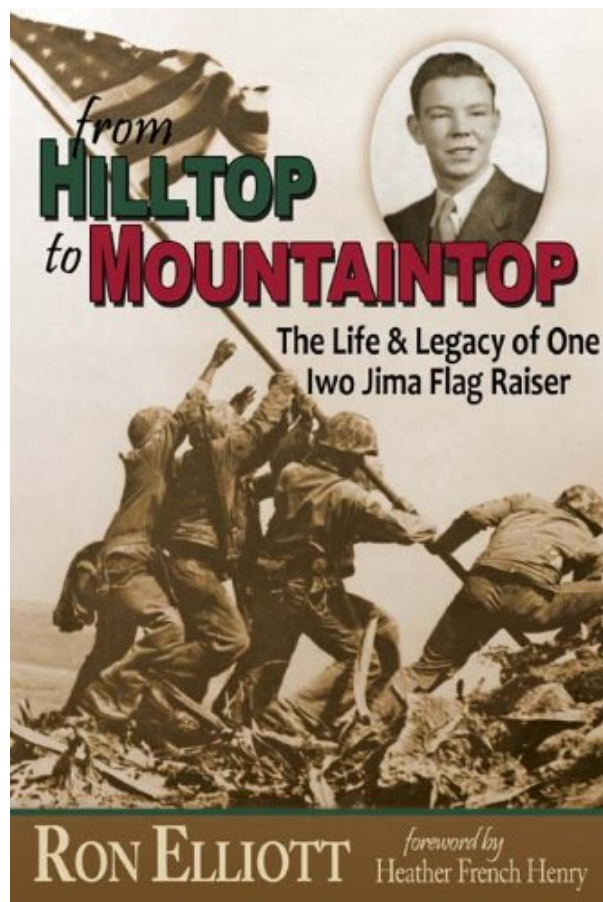
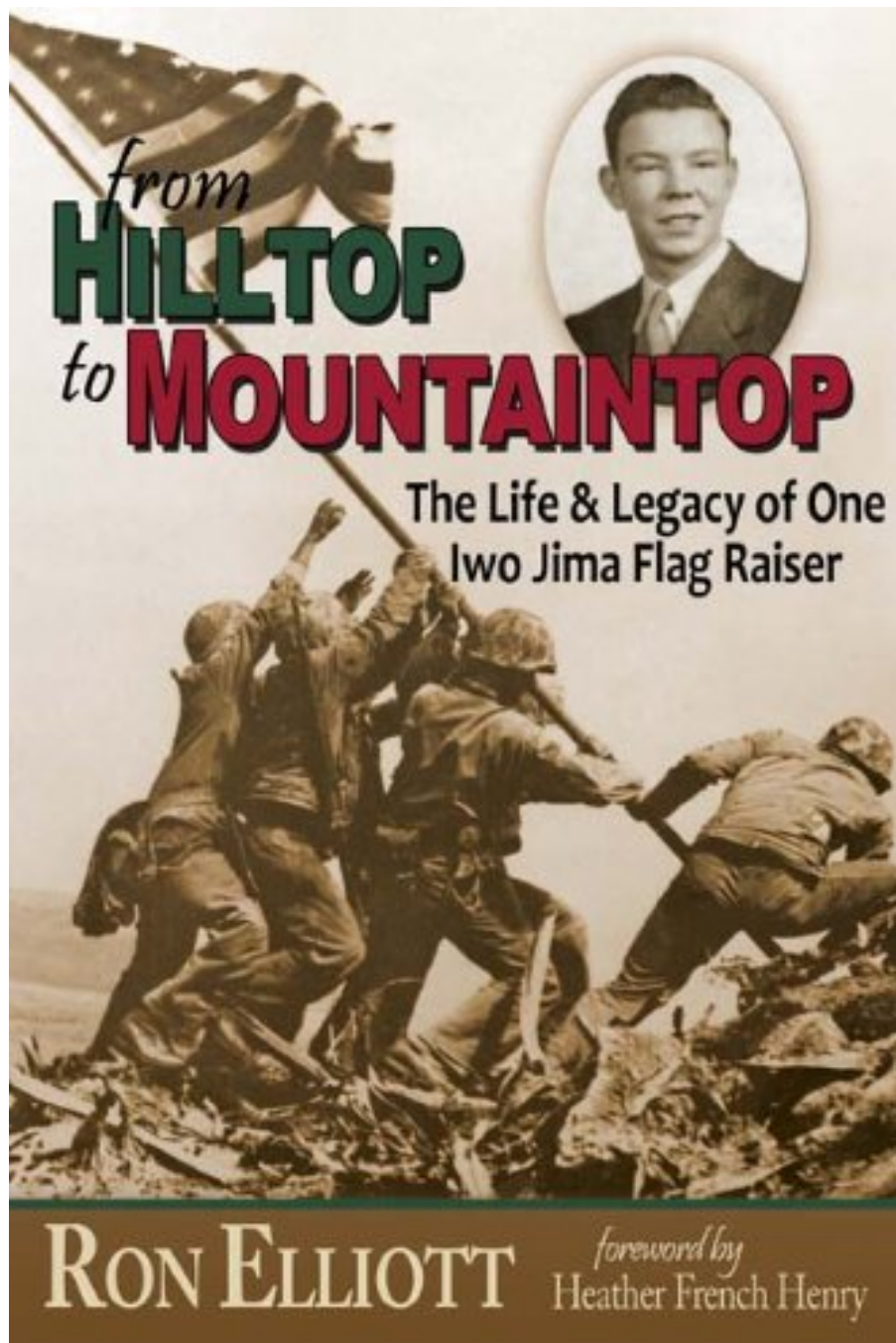


# FROM HILLTOP TO MOUNTAINTOP: THE LIFE & LEGACY OF ONE IWO JIMA FLAG RAISER BY RON ELLIOTT



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## Review

A mere 1/400th of a second captured Franklin s legacy which endures in bronze, at the Marine Corps War Memorial, a tribute to the Marine dead of all wars since 10 Nov 1775. As long as the American flag proudly flies above the most cherished of America s icons, the memory and sacrifice of Franklin and thousands like him will not be forgotten. --James Jim Donovan Executive Director, Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation

Sousley's heroism as a Marine has been documented in books and film, but now Ron Elliott sheds light on Sousley's formative years and how it impacted his time in the service and his family members as well as the nation after his death. --Maysville Independent Ledger

Whatever transpired to cause the miracle of the flag raising at Iwo Jima, no one can dispute the power it still brings today... the image of boys like Franklin Sousley, a farm boy from small town Kentucky, who by no will of his own, helped to encourage and capture the spirit of America. --Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000 Executive Director, The Heather French Foundation for Veterans, Inc.

## About the Author

Ron Elliott, a native of Lincoln County, Kentucky, is a graduate of Stanford High School, Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky. Ron s background includes working on the historic Apollo missions, which placed Americans on the moon and teaching in Kentucky s Community College system. Having a relative involved in the assassination of Kentucky s would-be governor, William Goebel, piqued his interest in history. A popular speaker, Ron is the author of Assassination at the State House, The Silent Brigade, Inside the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire, Through the Eyes of Lincoln and numerous magazine articles. Semi-retired, Ron and his wife, Carol, currently live in Nelson County, Kentucky.

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The image of the U.S. Marines raising the Stars and Stripes on Iwo Jima may very well be the most famous photograph of all time. While Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's iconic picture captured in the final stages of World War II fuses the men into a single historic unit, they remain six individuals and each was an American woman's precious baby boy. From an overall historical viewpoint, given that what we see in the photograph is American teamwork, courage and victory, the individual identities may not matter; nonetheless each of the six men has a unique background and traveled a distinctive path to reach the summit of Mt. Suribachi. Through exhaustive research into sources public and private, Ron Elliott has detailed the heart-warming and heart-wrenching drama that is the life and legacy of one of the flag raisers, Franklin Runyon Sousley. Sousley's story is related with all the tragedy, humor and excitement that compose the remarkable life of one chosen by fate to be representative of the thousands of Americans who sacrificed so much to preserve our way of life.

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A Kentucky Hero

By KyPhoto

Noted Kentucky author Ron Elliott has proven himself to be an excellent researcher and storyteller in his previous books, including "Inside the Beverly Hills Supper Club Fire," "Assassination at the Statehouse," "The Silent Brigade" and "Through the Eyes of Lincoln." These talents shine once more as he chronicles the life of Kentuckian Franklin Sousley who was one of six marines immortalized in a photo of the raising of an American Flag on Iwo Jima, an island in the Pacific Ocean, near the end of World War II. The book follows Sousley as he goes through childhood, high school, Marine Corp boot camp and to his eventual death on Iwo Jima.

The author grew up in a small Kentucky community not unlike Sousley's. With his first-hand knowledge of rural Kentucky life, Elliott crafts a realistic account of Sousley's life and surroundings. You'll laugh at Sousley's mischievous antics as a young man, you'll feel you're right there with him in boot camp and on Iwo Jima, and you'll likely shed tears as you read his mother's reaction to the news of her son's death. The book is both heart warming and heart wrenching. Be prepared to read it in one sitting; you won't want to put it down!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

One young mans life changed forever.

By Peg

This is about the story of Franklin Sousley, one of the men that is pictured in the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima. His life story at such a young age, from a really small town in KY. Actually he was my third cousin if cousins go back that far. I just remember my dad telling me about who he was and when this book came out I couldn't wait to read about him. He is buried in Elizaville Cemetery, where my grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and cousin are buried.

If you enjoy history I believe you would enjoy reading about this country boy who fought for America.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

From Hilltop to Mountaintop: The Life and Legacy of One Iwo Jima Flag Raiser

By Kellie The Book Lady

From Hilltop to Mountaintop: The Life and Legacy of One Iwo Jima Flag Raiser may be the best book I have read this year. I sat down and read it from cover to cover in about 3 hours. Ron Elliot makes Franklin R. Sousley come alive in his account of Sousley's early life and the 31 days Sousley spent on Iwo Jima. I will never look at the picture of the Iwo Jima flag raising again without thinking of Sousely and all the heroic efforts of the soldiers who fight for our country in a war.

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