

### Sergeant John Basilone

Raritan, New Jersey  
U.S. Marine Corps

**Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor**  
"For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy forces — Guadalcanal on October 24 and 25, 1942 — thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment."

**Awarded the Navy Cross**  
"For extraordinary heroism while serving as leader of a machine gun section — Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945 — attacking with grenades and demolitions, singlehandedly destroyed the entire strong point and its defending garrison."

Killed at Iwo Jima  
February 19, 1945



## John Basilone

Gunnery Sergeant, USMC



"A Marine's Marine"

Commemorative  
Concert

John Nobile's  
SummerSwing Orchestra

September 20, 2014  
7 pm



**The John Basilone  
Parade Committee  
Honors  
Raritan's War Dead**

**World War I**

Sante Moretti  
Angelo Simonitti

**World War II**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Dominic Baldini   | Walter Jacobs      |
| John Basilone     | Rev. R. A. Koskomp |
| Carmine Crugnale  | Joseph Lamastro    |
| Phillip DeLorenzo | Alfonso Matteis    |
| Rocco DeMello     | Michael Mazepa     |
| Julius Dominici   | Peter Obzanski     |
| John Dougherty    | Jerry Ottaviano    |
| Frank Esposito    | Frank Passarello   |
| John Gentle       | Peter Petras       |
| Abraham Granetz   | Rocco Scarponi     |
| Frances Harcar    | Joseph Spatt       |
| Edward Harcarik   | Alfred Zanol       |

**Korean War**  
William Horensky

**The John Basilone  
Parade Committee**

John Pacifico, *Chairman*  
Kathryn Mastice, *Secretary*  
Peter Vitelli, *Treasurer*

Michael Basilone  
Anna Louise Bongiovi  
Lawrence Coyne  
William Cunningham  
CWO4 Nick D'Andrea  
Patrick DeChirico  
Bruce Doorly  
Lawrence Engel  
Joni Holland  
John Lamaestra

William Lester  
Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak  
Raymond Lynch  
Patrick Mastice  
Chief Kenneth McCormick  
Joyce Melitsky  
Lieutenant Raymond Nolte  
Herb Patullo  
Colonel Louis Piantadosi  
Sheriff Frank Provenzano

Jack Rice  
Al Schubach  
Michael Sunder  
Sergeant Mark Szczecina  
Councilman Donald Tozzi



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The John Basilone Parade Committee extends its sincere thanks and grateful appreciation to the Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College for the use of its beautiful facilities for this special concert presentation.

Special thanks to the RVCC Marketing, Graphics Department and Print Shop for their assistance with this program.

**John Basilone ★ November 4, 1916 – February 19, 1945 ★**

John Basilone was born in Buffalo, New York, son of Salvatore and Dora Basilone, one of ten children.

John was educated at St. Bernard Parochial School in Raritan and worshipped at St. Ann's Church. In his spare time, he worked as a caddie at the Raritan Valley Country Club, and became an excellent golfer. Restless and adventurous, he enlisted in the Army at the age of eighteen, principally seeing garrison service in the Philippines.

After his honorable discharge in 1937, he returned to Raritan. But as the storm clouds of war hovered over the nation, John believed his place was with the fighting forces, so in July 1940, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. Before going to the Pacific Theatre of Operations, he was trained at Quantico, Paris Island, New River, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

It was on Guadalcanal that Sergeant Basilone distinguished himself, becoming the first enlisted Marine of World War II to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest award for extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action.

While serving with the Seventh Marines, First Marine Division, in the Lunga Area of Guadalcanal on October 24 and 25, 1942, Sergeant Basilone was in charge of two sections of heavy machine guns defending a narrow pass which led to Henderson Airfield. Vastly outnumbered, with no reinforcements available, Basilone and the Marines fought valiantly to check the savage and determined Japanese assault.

The citation which accompanied his Medal of Honor says in part:

"In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sergeant Basilone's sections, with its gun crews, was put out of action, leaving only two men to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then under continual fire repaired another and personally manned it.

A little later, with the ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Basilone at great risk to his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunner."

Hour after hour Basilone and his remaining men battled off the Japanese. At one point, he was forced to use his revolver to shoot down Japanese who had reached his trench.

By the time reinforcements arrived, the enemy had been stopped. Basilone's small force, the citation said, "contributed in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment."

Ordered to duty in the United States after these heroic exploits on the Guadalcanal, "Manila John" Basilone, as he was then known to the American people, was honored by his friends and neighbors of the Raritan Valley and everywhere in the country as he toured in aid of the War Bond Drive. He married a sergeant of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, Lena Riggi, on July 18, 1944.

In December 1944, Sergeant Basilone's resiliency to rejoin his fellow Marines, who were fighting the bloody island-to-island route to the Philippines and Japan, prompted him to again volunteer for combat.

On Iwo Jima on D-Day, February 19, 1945, Gunnery Sergeant Basilone again distinguished himself, single-handedly destroying a Japanese machine house while braving a smashing bombardment of enemy heavy caliber fire.

Hours later this fighting heart was stilled by a Japanese archery shell. For his exploits that day he was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

In 1949, the government commissioned a destroyer the U.S.S. Basilone. In November 1951, Governor Alfred E. Driscoll posthumously awarded Basilone the state's highest decoration. Following World War II, John Basilone's remains were reinterred in the Arlington National Cemetery.



**John Nobile's SummerSwing Orchestra**



John Nobile's SummerSwing Orchestra is a 17-piece dance and concert band, owned and operated by John F. Nobile of Readington Township, NJ. The orchestra is under the musical directorship of Steven Kaplan of Irving, NJ and is composed of accomplished musicians from Somerset, Ocean and Hunterdon counties. The orchestra has been in existence for over 20 years and has been featured in events and venues throughout New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. This is the 6th year that the orchestra has been a part of the John Basilone Memorial Festival, and is honored to again be a part of this celebration for one of America's biggest heroes.

**Woodwinds**

- Lauren Hengeli Flute, Piccolo, Alto Saxophone  
Whitehouse Station, NJ
- Steven Kaplan Bb Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone  
Irving, NJ
- Judy Yee Bb Clarinet  
Lakewood, NJ
- Mary Sobin-Jewell Eb Soprano Clarinet, Bb clarinet  
Franklin Park, NJ
- Bill Begosh Alto Saxophone  
Whitehouse Station, NJ
- Desmond McRory Tenor Saxophone  
Stockton, NJ
- Lawrence Zeller Bass, Baritone, Tenor Saxophone  
Bridgewater, NJ

**Brass**

- Joe Turano Trumpet, Flugelhorn  
Roebling, NJ
- Robert Seeley Trumpet, Flugelhorn  
Ringoes, NJ
- James Bogel Trumpet, Flugelhorn  
Montclair, NJ
- Daniel Kaplan Trumpet  
Irving, NJ
- Duane Kress Trombone  
Woodbridge, NJ
- William Murray Trombone  
Annandale, NJ
- John Nobile Trombone  
Readington, NJ
- Joe Janus Bass Trombone  
Medford Lakes, NJ

**Rhythm**

- Anthony Petrucelli Guitar  
Hillsborough, NJ
- Mary Sobin-Jewell Piano  
Franklin Twp., NJ
- Alexander Duque String Bass  
Hillsborough, NJ
- Bill Cunnion drum set  
Lakewood, NJ

**Feature Vocalist**

- Raquel Lynne Nobile Soprano  
Readington, NJ





**John Basilone Days  
Concert  
September 20, 2014  
John Nobile's  
SummerSwing Orchestra**



- The Star Spangled Banner  
John Stafford Smith/Francis Scott Key (composers)  
Steven Kaplan (arranger)
- Semper Parvulus  
John Philip Sousa (composer)
- God Bless The USA  
Lee Greenwood (composer)  
Steven Kaplan (arranger)
- I'll Be Seeing You  
Fain/Kahal (composers)  
Bob Currow (arranger)
- American Patrol  
Menckam (composer)  
Jerry Gray (arranger)
- Battle Hymn of the Republic  
William Steffe/Julia Ward Howe (composers)  
Peter Wittwsky (arranger)
- Phantom Regiment  
Leroy Anderson (composer)
- When Johnny Comes Marching Home  
Patrick Gilmore (composer)  
Ralph Matesky (arranger)
- You'd Be So Nice To Come Home To  
Cole Porter (composer)  
Dave Wolpe (arranger)
- In The Mood  
Joe Garland (composer)
- Serenade in Blue  
Harry Warren/Mack Gordon (composers)
- It Don't Mean A Thing  
Duke Ellington/Irvington Mills (composers)  
Mike Lewis (arranger)

- Buglers Holiday  
Leroy Anderson (composer)
- Seventy Six Trombones  
Meredith Wilson (composer)  
Leroy Anderson (arranger)  
(adapted by Jay Bousoik)
- Sing, Sing, Sing  
Louis Prima (composer)  
Dave Wolpe (arranger)
- My Foolish Heart  
H. Washington/P. Young (composers)  
Ray Anthony (arranger)
- St. Louis Blues March  
W.C. Handy (composer)  
Jerry Gray (arranger)
- Salute to the United States Armed Forces  
Steven Kaplan (arranger)
- God Bless America  
Irving Berlin (composer)  
Steven Kaplan (arranger)
- National Emblem  
E. E. Bagley (composer)
- Washington Post  
John Philip Sousa (composer)  
Edited Frederick Fennell
- Stars & Stripes Forever  
John Philip Sousa (composer)  
Baton/Schissel (arrangers)
- Hands Across the Sea  
John Philip Sousa (composer)  
Edited Frederick Fennell
- King Cotton  
John Philip Sousa (composer)  
Edited Frederick Fennell

John Nobile, executive director

Steven Kaplan, musical director

**Twenty-fifth John Basilone  
Commemorative Concert  
September 20, 2014  
7 pm**

The Edward Nash Theatre  
Raritan Valley Community College  
Branchburg, New Jersey

- Master of Ceremonies** John Pacifico, *Chairman*  
John Basilone Parade Committee
- Invocation** Reverend Joseph Lugo  
Former Air Force Chaplain
- Proclamation** ?  
Somerset County  
Board of Chosen Freeholders
- Greetings** Jo-Ann Liptak, *Mayor*  
Borough of Raritan
- Introduction of Basilone Family & Honored Guests**
- Concert** John Nobile's  
SummerSwing Orchestra
- Presentations & Closing Remarks** John Pacifico



**Annual Parade**  
The Thirty-third Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade will be held on  
Sunday, September 21, 2014, at 1:00 pm in Raritan, New Jersey,  
home of the famous Marine hero.  
**All are welcome to attend.**