

# Champaign County Historical Society

## NEWSLETTER

Museum at 809 East Lawn Avenue, Urbana OH 43078

July 2012

The Champaign County Historical Society is proud to host Corporal Charles R. Baker and Staff Sergeant. Gailard “Red” Ketchan, two “World War II veterans of the greatest generation” on Sunday July 15, 2012 at 809 East Lawn Avenue, Urbana, Ohio. Corporal Baker, a marine, was one of the men that was sent to hold Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima in the South Pacific. He spent the first night on top of the mountain in machine gun emplacements.

After Iwo Jima, Private Baker was returned to Hawaii to train replacements because his division had lost so many men in action. Baker then accompanied the newly trained troops onto a ship and returned to the South Pacific with the intension of invading Japan. While shipboard the troops learned of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan and the war was over. Corporal Baker saw Army Commander General Eichelberger from Urbana.

SSgt. Garland “Red” Ketchan was on his way to Europe as a Belly Gunner on a B-17 as a member of the 306th Bomber Group U. S. Army Air Corp assigned to England. While in flight he was informed the European War was over. He later was involved in a “Traveling G I Stage Group” during his schooling to become an army photographer. He then traveled Europe mapping the areas that had incurred massive destruction of roads and landmarks. He was also involved in the mapping of Northern Africa. Private Ketchan knew the 6th man that was raising the flag at Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima, Privet Franklin Sowlsluy and worked with him at Frigidaire in Dayton. That man lost his life on Iwo Jima.