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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **D.A. Donovan Presents Rifle Used at Battle of Iwo Jima to Staten Island Marine Corps League**

***\*\*\*World War II Rifle Was Recovered During Execution of Search Warrant in February 2007\*\*\****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today presented a rifle used at the World War II battle of Iwo Jima to the Staten Island Chapter of the Marine Corps League for display at the their Staten Island headquarters. The weapon was formally presented to William Reilly and Carl Pustizzi of Marine Corps League at the Richmond County District Attorney's offices in St. George.

The gun was seized, along with other weapons and a quantity of drugs, following the execution of a search warrant on February 9, 2007 at a residence on Wainwright Avenue. Following a review of the weapon's serial number, it was determined that the rifle was used at the battle of Iwo Jima in the Pacific Theatre of combat during World War II. Following the disposition of the criminal case against the defendant, a 50-year-old Eltingville man, the defendant agreed to "sell" the weapon, a US Springfield Armory Model 1903, for the sum of \$2. Prior to being handed over to the Marine Corps League, the weapon has been rendered inoperable and cannot be fired.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "I am honored to present this piece of American history to the brave men and women of the Staten Island Marine Corps League for display as part of their collection. While this weapon returned from the battle unscathed our nation suffered over 6,800 deaths and 19,000 wounded on that island. I hope when future generations view this rifle they will contemplate the enormous sacrifice those men made to secure the freedoms we enjoy today."

William Reilly of the Staten Island Marine Corps League stated, "I am grateful for the effort of District Attorney Donovan and his staff to preserve this valuable piece of American history. It will be prominently displayed in our headquarters as a symbol of our nation's heritage."

The District Attorney also thanked Executive Assistant District Attorney Timothy J. Koller, Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Fogel, Sgt. Daniel DiPaolo of the NYPD and Frederico Gebauer, of the Office of the New York City Criminal Justice Coordinator, for their assistance in securing the release of the rifle to the Marine Corps League.

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**District Attorney Donovan presents a World War II rifle from the Battle of Iwo Jima to William Reilly (l.) and Carl Pustizzi (r.) of the Staten Island Marine Corps League**

