

Joe Winslow

AN ARTIST & TRUE PATRIOT

BY COLLETTE CAPRARA



Maj. Joe Winslow, an artist and sculptor who now lives in the Shenandoah Valley, has a deep relationship with Fredericksburg through the many patrons of his work and **Wegner's Foundry** where he casts his sculptures. Those who have experienced the emotive quality of his artwork all share a deep and abiding bond of heart with him and with each other. A prime example of the impact of his creations is the powerful bronze frieze that was unveiled in 2023 depicting a courageous team of **Marines in the Second Battle of Fallujah** in 2004.

Winslow participated in combat operations as a **Field Historian and Combat Artist** where he accompanied infantry assault units to record their historical importance for the **National Museum of the Marine Corps**. He describes his role as "having a rifle in one hand and

has been fired on by an insurgent within a building as they are going inside to find the attacker. This battle, **Operation Phantom Fury**, has been deemed one of the bloodiest since the Korean War."

This is the first panel of a series of four that will depict the Marines' involvement in **Al Ahnbar Province** from 2004 through 2005, the period from the Blackwater Ambush to the free elections of the Iraqi people. This panel is 40 inches by 20 inches and is cast in solid bronze.

Winslow's depiction in this piece conveys the determination of each member of this band of brothers to

died in this battle."

"Through my art, I wanted to show that America's young men and young women were certainly up to the task of defending our country as much as they were during WWII, Viet Nam and Korea, and that when we call upon these young people who become Marines, they believe in our country. They believe in what they are doing and they are going to do whatever it takes up to and including giving their lives to defend what we have here. They make that choice willingly, and they are very capable of doing it."

He hopes that his series of friezes will elicit a sense of gratitude among those who view them. "Our



Above, Completed Clay Original; Below Completed Bronze



a sketch pad in the other." He completed field sketches and renderings of combat action and collected battle artifacts and came home to begin sculptural and fine art representations of Marines in action.

"The Second Battle of Fallujah frieze depicts the type of engagement that I had participated in and witnessed and experienced hundreds of times when I was in Iraq," Winslow said. "The scene features a rifle team of five Marines that

accomplish their mission, as well as the bond they share with each other. The pose and expressions of each Marine also signal concern about one another, such as a quick glance to check how their comrades are doing. "The men are very closely bunched together and viewers will see that each Marine is touching another, whether it's a hand on the shoulder of the guy in front or someone's back pressing against another's leg. This is my personal tribute to five particular Marines that

wonderful lives that we enjoy as Americans in this country are not an accident and didn't come by chance. The freedoms and privileges that we have in this country were bought and paid for by people like those I represent in my art."

Winslow served the Marine Corps for 21 years and joined when he was just 17. He describes his youth as either "being one of those kids running around the



Winslow Shaping the Rough Clay

alley behind my house in army clothes playing war with my friends all day or building theater sets and costumes at this catholic school." In the last four years of his career, he was selected to become a combat artist, and, though he retired in 2008, he continues to create artwork for the Marine Corps Combat Art Program at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Maj Winslow welcomes commissions and can be reached at (540) 630-5949. Additional information is available here: joewinslow1.com/about.

Collette Caprara is an artist, writer & appreciates & learns from all cultures

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