Somerset County's
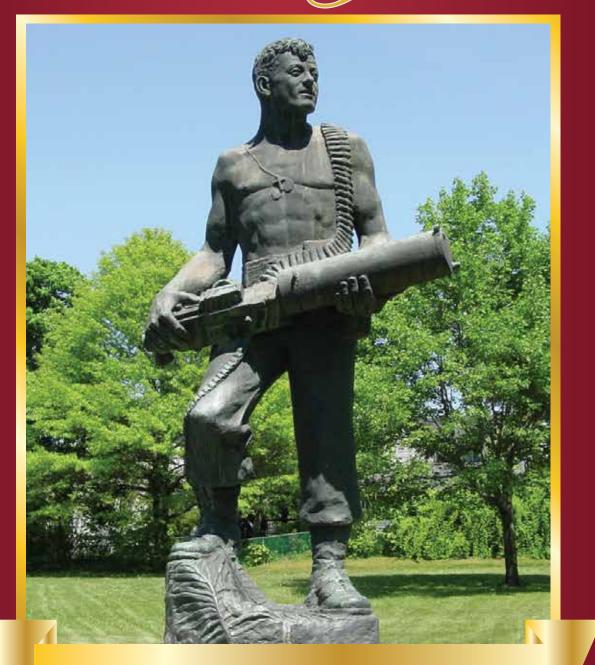# *Weekend Journey through the Past*

John Basilone

John Basilone

Raritan's Hometown Hero

★ Outnumbered by forces who were trying to take a US airfield, John Basilone repaired a broken machine gun in the dark, made an ammunition run through the jungle, and killed 38 enemy soldiers. He died during his second tour of duty at the Battle of Iwo Jima—but not before singlehandedly destroying an enemy blockhouse with grenades and navigating a tank out of a minefield. He's the only enlisted WWII Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor, Navy Cross and Purple Heart.

★ *Did you know…* that the John Basilone statue on the corner of Somerset and Canal Streets was sculpted by Basilone's childhood friend, Philip Orlando?

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