



N.J. native believed he was meant to play the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient

BY LINDA MOSS

NEWJERSEYNEWSROOM.COM

Actor Jon Seda, who grew up in New Jersey, felt a lot of pressure when he took the role of legendary World War II hero John Basilone in "The Pacific," HBO's \$200 million miniseries.

Seda wanted to do right by Basilone, who was one of the bravest and most well-known soldiers of the war, a celebrity in his day. Basilone's fame was well-deserved: He won a Congressional Medal of Honor for repelling, despite being vastly outnumbered, a nighttime attack by the Japanese on Guadalcanal in 1942.

Basilone was sent back home and given the job of touring to sell war bonds. But he wouldn't settle for that cushy duty. He wanted to return to combat, and was killed during the invasion of Iwo Jima in 1945, just a few hours after landing on the island. He left behind his recent bride, Lena.

Seda, best known for his roles in the TV show "Homicide: Life On The Street" and the Jennifer Lopez movie "Selena," was also well aware that Basilone was from New Jersey. The Marine sergeant hero was raised in Raritan Borough, one of 10 children of Italian immigrant parents, while Seda hailed from Clifton.







the high quality of the film, but I'm just glad to be a runner-up in the category. I'm really happy to be in the category. I'm really happy to be in the category. I'm really happy to be in the category.





Jon Seda and John Basilone



Jon Seda, John Basilone, and a police officer