

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 38, No. 3

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Winter 2013



"And that's why our reunions are so important..."

When the colors are presented on Saturday night and we stand at attention and pledge our allegiance, I always let my eyes look over the men of the Sixth. And at that moment I am seized with the realization that I am in the presence of true greatness.

Nothing compares! Not relatives, not neighborhood friends, not important people, not wealthy people, not celebrities, no one.

This group, this motley group of aging, portly, greying men once were warriors in the finest traditions of the United States Marine Corps And, if there is such a thing, in the finest traditions of war itself. To stand among them is to feel their spirit, their courage, their love. To know you are one of them is to experience an emotion that few men will ever know."

- Richard A. Whitaker, Private First Class, USMC
F Company, 2nd Battalion, 29th Marines

*From the book On the Point of the Spear by James S. White,
Corporal, USMC, G Company, 3rd Battalion, 29th Marines*

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Sixth Marine Division Association Annual Reunion ~ Quantico, Virginia

See pages 6-18 and 27 for more photos and information about the reunion.



Jerry & Fred Bennett

1st Row: Edwin Cotten, Sam Petriello, Fred Abbott, Anthony Coccio, Watson Crumbie, Sam Ukrop, Marvin Gromley
 2nd Row: O. B. Aasland, Harry Bertram, Bill Twigger
 3rd Row: Paul Judd, Neal McCallum, Walter Callis, Dick Whitaker, Bob Russell, D. C. Rigby, Andy Sinatra, Alio Benedetti, Fred Bennett, Jim McGuigan, Jack Rice, David Mears



Eleanor Vyn, David Mears



Harry McKnight, Sam Petriello



Minnie Belle Sanner, Emily Ukrop



Neal McCallum, Pfuong Riles, Marvin Gromley



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Unit Directors

4th Marines	George Scott
15th Marines	Ozzie Aasland
22nd Marines	Bob Russell
29th Marines	Neil McCallum
6th Motor Trans Battalion	Vacant
6th Medical Battalion	Jack Rice
6th Engineering	Burr Allen
6th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta
6th Pioneer Battalion	Marvin Gromley
6th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6th Recon Company	Joe Singleton
6th JASCO	Dick Roberts
1st Amphibs	George Tremblay

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The Striking Sixth Newsletter

This newsletter is an official publication of the Sixth Marine Division Association and is published for members of the Association.

The subscription rate is \$10 per calendar year.

Membership applications, dues, donations, address changes, and record changes should be mailed with an application (see page 26) to:

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Arlington, TX 76011

Please make checks payable to:

Sixth Marine Division Assn., Inc.

For more information, please contact Flo at:

(817) 275-1552 or
sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Subscription Fees are due for 2014.

If you want to receive a newsletter in the spring, please pay your \$10 by December 31.

Even Life Members of the Association must pay. Please see pages 24-25 for more information.

Letters to the editor, materials for publication, suggestions, and feedback can be sent to:

Carroll McGowan, chm1423@aol.com, 1423 Pueblo Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15228, (412) 341-9219

Message From the President

First, I'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all those who made this year's 6th Marine Division Reunion such a great success, especially the planning committee who worked tirelessly to make sure all who attended had a wonderful time. The trip was very well-structured, with a visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, as well as a Marine Corps Base Bus Tour and lunch. Many members and their families attended the Memorial Service at the Semper Fi Chapel at the Museum and the Dinner Banquet at the Leatherneck Gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

On our own throughout the country, many of us wear our 6th Marine Division insignia on hats and tee shirts with pride. But assembled all together at the Reunion, this show of strength, respect, and tradition had truly special meaning.

Over the years, I've attended the reunion with my own children and grandchildren, who enjoyed meeting new people and connecting with others in the 6th Marine Division. During this trip, I met fourteen-year old Michaela Noel, the granddaughter of David Ascher, a Navy commander whose uncle, of the 6th Marine Division, gave his life on Okinawa. Michaela, a star student and incredible athlete, reminded me so much of what we

all fought for during World War II: the continuation of the American values of freedom, respect, hard work and individualism — those ideals that make this country so great and so strong.

The decision to hold the reunion in Quantico again is one that I applaud, and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2014!

~ Sam Petriello
President

Message From the President Elect

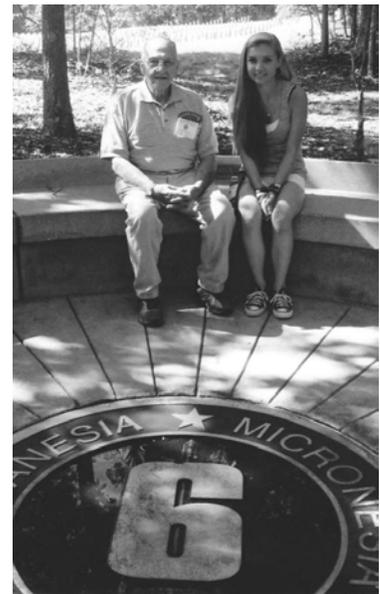


It seems like yesterday that we had our festivities and said our good byes for another year. What a great time was had by all.

The meet and greet went over well as did the trip to Quantico Base. Our "boys" certainly can not say they leave the table with an empty stomach. WOW, what a mess hall.

The memorial service at the Chapel was awesome once it got underway. The bagpiper also did an excellent job. A good time was had by all at the banquet.

I think one of the more fun times was the auction. The donor participation was awesome. Thanks to each and everyone of you who donated and purchased. I also think the hotel deserves a round of applause. If something wasn't right, they tried to make it right. Their participation throughout was greatly appreciated. I am looking forward to going back next year. Which by the way will



Sam Petriello and Michaela Noel

be here before you know it.

It was great to make new friends. It was great to renew friendships and acquaintances. I can only hope that we continue to grow with new members of the lineal descendants. So invite your aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters and brothers to share in a good time. Once again I will stress that your loved one of the Sixth does not need to be present. My father passed away 7 years ago and I have been coming ever since. I cherish the time I get to spend with the group. Whether they know it or not they have all become my adopted fathers, mothers and siblings.

Lastly I want to make public note that the Sixth Marine Division Association has my total pledge of loyalty. As your President Elect I will support the current President and Board in all endeavors.

I look forward to seeing all of you next year in Quantico. Have great holidays and great health.

~ Connie Houseweart
President Elect

Ladies Auxiliary Report

Hello again to all Wives, Descendants and Marines,

The 2013 reunion committee did a good job with the reunion in Quantico, considering they did not get the hotel in place until late February.

The roads around the hotel were crazy. Our Sgt, who was the guide for our tour of Quantico, said that the roads have been this way since she was assigned there 7 years ago, and at the rate the road construction is going she figured it would be another 7 years before the roads were better. One of the daughters and her father passed up the tour of Quantico to see the WW II Memorial in DC. Her GPS said it would take 35 minutes from the hotel to the Memorial but it took them 2 and a half hours one way. They were not happy with the long trip.



My favorite part of the reunion was the Major at Quantico who spent 20 minutes with us in a classroom setting, showing us a chart and explaining to us that all Ma-

rines officers are trained to do two jobs. For example, the aviators are trained to lead ground troops, among other things, as well as fly.

To those who were not at the reunion, we missed you and hope you plan to join us in 2014 and give us your input. I think the new ladies (mostly daughters) found out we have fun at our meetings, and I am hoping they will join us again.

~ Barbara McKnight
Ladies Auxiliary President

Winter 2013

Chaplain's Report



Notes from the reunion...

First, I missed Ed and Ann Marsalek; they have been regulars for many years. We did get to talk to them when they came to Columbus to see their grandson who is enrolled at Ohio State. I was counting on Pam Bloustine and Joan Willauer to put them to work again. They both had plans to come and I held my

breath during the tornados, but maybe next year.

The traffic was a mess; good thing for the buses. It took me over an hour both ways to go six miles to a Sam's club gas station. We made the mistake of following an outdated map that took us through D.C. Finally there, it was nice to meet the gang. The planning committee really did a super job in organizing most of the good stuff we enjoyed. Bob McGowan's recruiting of Lt.Col. Russell Scherck and his wife Ginger was a plus. He was an outstanding speaker. The bus trip to Quantico was interesting, and the Lady Marine did an outstanding job pointing out the things of interest. I was impressed at the Museum with the names on the bricks. Located some I knew.

There were some bloopers, one of which was mine. The Semper Fi Chapel was outstanding and the setting was super. Just before the service, I walked out of the Chapel to see if the color guard was there yet. When it was time for the service, I started in and a Marine stopped me and asked if it was too late to get his wife's name on the program; she had just died two weeks ago. I had the program with me and said I could add her name and you as the husband. He thanked me, and I inserted her name on the list in alphabetic order. This threw off the ringing of the bell by Andy Sinatra at every 5 names, and it confused the people who were following along with the program names.

The sound system at the hotel was not up to our liking, Sam tried to use it too and just gave up. My voice is not strong and I need a good system. The Banquet was very good and everything went well. I did not like sharing part of our hospitality room with another group. It made us feel cramped. It was small enough as it was. Bob showed me a better way to go back home that was not clear on my map. It was a 4 lane divided highway most of the way. I'm glad we did not honor the lineals at the Chapel as was planned. It would have detracted from the service. May the Good Lord bless us until we meet again.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight.

Remarks by Russell Scherck

2013 Reunion Banquet

August 17, 2013



Good Evening. I'm honored and humbled to be addressing an audience of my parent's generation, a generation about whom Tom Brokaw coined the term "Greatest Generation," and more specifically the Marines of the 6th Marine Division. Thank you. To be here at the National Museum of the Marine Corps where past, present, and future Marines gather is fitting.

Bob McGowan and I had the privilege to be in the audience at the opening ceremony of this museum and to witness President George W. Bush present the Medal of Honor to the parents of Cpl. Jason Dunham. Cpl. Dunham was born on 10 November 1981 and was killed in Iraq at the age of 22 on 14 April 2004. Here is an excerpt from his citation: "Corporal Dunham wrestled the insurgent to the ground and in the ensuing struggle saw the insurgent release a grenade. Corporal Dunham immediately alerted his fellow Marines to the threat. Aware of the imminent danger and without hesitation, Corporal Dunham covered the grenade with his helmet and body, bearing the brunt of the explosion and shielding his Marines from the blast." Why do I mention a Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in Iraq almost 60 years after the Battle of Okinawa? While reviewing your history, the history of the 6th Marine Division, I could not help but be drawn to the citations of the seven Medals of Honor awarded after the horrific three month battle. Three of those Medals of Honor were awarded for the same unselfish act of courage shown by Cpl. Dunham to protect his fellow Marines. The brotherhood, camaraderie, teamwork, and faithfulness shown by you and your fellow WWII Marines live on today in our Corps. The example you set in the Battle of Okinawa became and continues to be the yardstick that our present and future Marines will be measured by.

So what was unique about the Battle of Okinawa as it relates to today?

- Was it that the 6th Marine Division was a composite of Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors? No, that is not unusual or unique; it was just the precursor of what today we call Combined Task Force.
- Was it the duration of the battle – nearly 12 weeks? Possibly, as no battle since then has been continuously as long as Okinawa. (The first Battle of Fallujah was 30 days.)
- Was it the fanatical way the Japanese fought, resulting in the highest casualty rates of WWII – with the use of suicide planes and boats, and no surrender on the ground? To me the answer is yes. The fanatic way the Japanese soldiers and sailors fought with the use of suicide attacks was a culture we Americans do not embrace or understand. It is the same culture of suicide attacks that we thought was unique to the Japanese of yesterday that has taken on the face of radical Islam with the 9/11 attacks and almost every day with suicide bombers. We in America and other western nations today do not understand this culture of suicide for a cause any more than you did in 1945. This uniqueness is the single biggest lesson we should have learned from the Battle of Okinawa; one that we are still learning today.

This is pointed out in the book "Ripples of Battle" by Victor Davis Hanson whose uncle, Victor Hanson, Jr., 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division, was killed in action on Okinawa. Here is a tribute to you from the author. *[See page 8 for the letter from Victor Davis Hanson that Russell read.]*

Remarks by Russell Scherck (cont.)

Three weeks ago my wife and I were visiting friends who live near the small town of Roxboro, NC. While there, our hosts took us to the town museum. From that visit to the museum I learned two things that stayed with me about Roxboro: 1) Enos Slaughter, Hall of Fame baseball player who played for the St. Louis Cardinals and New York Yankees was raised there, and 2) so was PFC Thomas V. Rattican, 4th Battalion, 15th Marines, 6th Marine Division, who was killed in action on Okinawa. Your legacy lives on, not only with your families, close friends, and museums across America, but in the everyday actions of our Marines of today.

In closing I am going to read your Presidential Unit Citation:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the SIXTH MARINE DIVISION, REINFORCED

For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault and capture of Okinawa, April 1 to June 21, 1945. Seizing Yontan Airfield in its initial operation, the SIXTH Marine Division, Reinforced, smashed through organized resistance to capture Ishikawa Isthmus, the town of Nago, and heavily fortified Motobu Peninsula in 13 days. Later committed to the southern front, units of the Division withstood overwhelming artillery and mortar barrages, repulsed furious counterattacks and staunchly pushed over the rocky terrain to reduce almost impregnable defenses and capture Sugar Loaf Hill. Turning southeast, they took the capital city of Naha and executed surprise shore-to-shore landings on Oroku Peninsula, securing the area with its prized Naha Airfield and Harbor after nine days of fierce fighting. Reentering the lines in the south, SIXTH Division Marines sought out enemy forces entrenched in a series of rocky ridges extending to the southern tip of the island, advancing relentlessly and rendering decisive support until the last remnants of enemy opposition were exterminated and the island secured. By their valor and tenacity, the officers and men of the SIXTH Marine Division, Reinforced contributed materially to the conquest of Okinawa, and their gallantry in overcoming a fanatic enemy in the face of extraordinary danger and difficulty adds new luster to Marine Corps history, and to the traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

Thank you again for this honor to talk with fellow Marines. Semper Fidelis!!!

**“The example you set
in the Battle of Okinawa
became and continues to be
the yardstick that our
present and future Marines
will be measured by.”**



A Letter of Thanks from Victor Davis Hanson

The letter below was written by Victor Davis Hanson to the Marines of the Sixth Division on the occasion of their annual reunion at Quantico. Russell Scherck read this letter at the Reunion Banquet.

Victor Davis Hanson is an American military historian, columnist, former classics professor, and scholar of ancient warfare. He has been a commentator on modern warfare and contemporary politics for National Review and other media outlets. He is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. He is the author of some 250 articles, book reviews, and newspaper editorials on Greek, agrarian, and military history and essays on contemporary culture.



Victor Davis Hanson was named after his uncle, Vic Hanson of Fox Company, who was killed on Okinawa on May 18, 1945.

To the Veterans of the Sixth Marine Division

The United States owes a great deal of appreciation to you of the 6th Marine Division who suffered so much and fought so gallantly in the nightmare of Okinawa to defeat a fascist system that had a quite different—and quite evil—vision of what life should be like on both sides of the Pacific. Because the Marines of the 6th Division were so competent and courageous, they ensured the defeat of Imperial Japanese forces in the last great—and in some ways the most brutal—of the battles that America fought against the Axis powers.

In some sense, at a terrible cost, you not only helped to free us from the specter of the Japanese nightmare, but also liberated the Japanese themselves from their own criminal government. The postwar prosperity and friendship between Japan and the United States—made possible only through the victory of U.S. Armed Forces—that followed from the sacrifices on Okinawa is the legacy of the 6th Marine Division.

Finally, I owe special thanks to the veterans of 29th Marines, who shared the ordeal of my namesake Victor Hanson, Jr., and whom, in a fortuitous way, over sixty years after Victor's death, I had the opportunity to know, even if vicariously, from reading about them in his letters home. I grew up with constant stories of the character and integrity of Victor, who even at a young age had been the pride of a small agrarian Swedish-American family in Kingsburg, California.

My father, the late William F. Hanson, who flew on 40 missions on a B-29 over Japan and its territories, tried to explain to us even as children what Victor and his Marine comrades had done in Okinawa, and devoted his life to living up to Victor's ideals. I have tried my best as well, according to my lesser station, and wish again on this occasion to extend my appreciation to the Marines of the 6th Division for entering the inferno in a manner that few Americans could endure or indeed even contemplate—and emerging victorious, albeit at a frightening sacrifice on our behalf that you have all borne so nobly in the decades since.

Thank you again,

Sincerely,
Victor Davis Hanson



Harry Bertram, Kenneth Wells



Richard Willauer, Jim Rigby



Sharon Woodhouse, O. B. Aasland



Harry & Dolores Bertram, Shirley Judd

Hospitality Suite, Holiday Inn



Walter Callis, Elbert Richards



Bill Twigger, Paul Sanner



Ray Rice, Minnie Belle Sanner, Jack Rice



Shirley & Paul Judd, Rosemary Holton



Shirley Judd, Minnie Belle Sanner



Ray Rice, Janet Russell



Anthony Coccio



Dave Hilner, Patty Payne



Fred & Mary Abbott, Helen Simmons, Barry Mears, Eleanor Vyn



Tour of the Marine Corps Base



Richard Willauer, Bob McGowan



Harry Bertram, David & Walter Mears



Fred Abbott, David Mears



Fred Bennett, Alio Benedetti



D. C. Rigby pointing to his picture

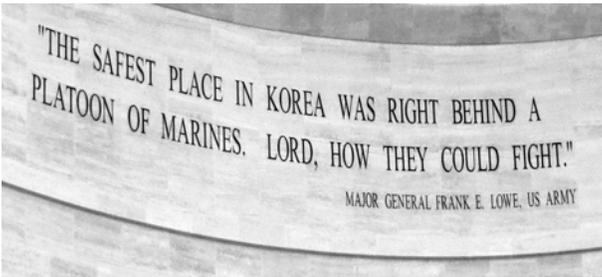


Alio Benedetti

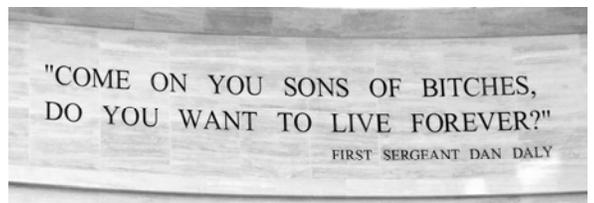
Trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps

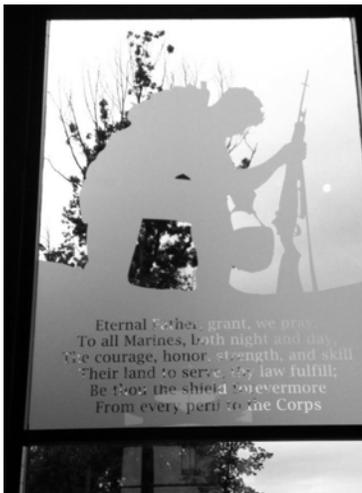


Picture of Alvin Leisey, Jr.



O. B. Aasland, Sharon, Gregg & Tiffany Woodhouse, Julie Koonce





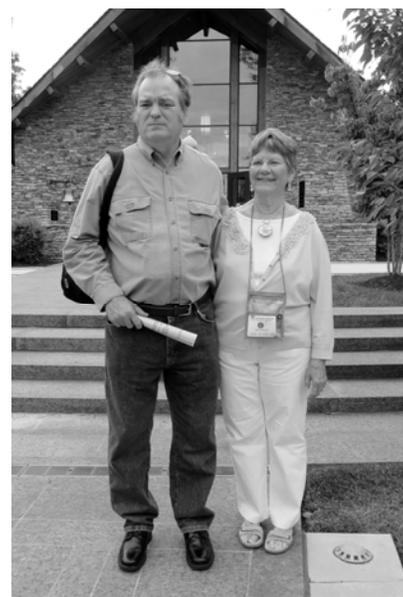
Memorial Service, Semper Fidelis Memorial Chapel



Harry McKnight



Anita, Angela, Melinda, Mark & Alio Benedetti



Larry & Mary Walker



Marvin Gromley



Connie Houseweart



Paul & Minnie Belle Sanner



Helen & Andrew Simmons



Bob McGowan



Eileen & Dick Whitaker



Marvin Gromley, Russell Scherck



Larry Walker, Sharon Woodhouse, Bob McGowan, Lisa Benedetti, Harry McKnight, Sam Petriello, Dick Roberts



Bob Russell, Tiffany Woodhouse, Janet Russell, Sam Petriello



Mary Walker, Minnie Belle Sanner, Kathy Schadt

Thank You to Everyone Who Made Donations to the Reunion

The following individuals made generous donations to the reunion. We sincerely apologize if we left anyone out. Please let us know if we did.

Pam Bloustine
Morrie Danzig
Marvin Gromley
Dave Hilner
Connie Houseweart
Barbara McKnight
Will and Mary Lee Melton
Jim Monbeck
Kathy Perone
Bob Pringle
Pauline Roberts
Janet Russell
Kathleen Schadt
Russell & Ginger Scherck
Helen Simmons
Joan Willauer



Special thanks to Julie Koontz and Tiffany Woodhouse for doing such a great job selling raffle tickets.

Reunion Attendees

Aasland, O. B.
Woodhouse, Sharon, Gregg & Tiffany
Abbott, Fred, & Mary
Simmons, Helen & Andrew
Ascher, David, Barbara
Noel, Michaela
Ascher, Robert & Judith
Beatty, Charles F. III
Beatty, John M.
Beatty, Matthew
Fowler, Kristine
Mayfield, Rosalyn
McFarland, Jenifer
Stevens, Jane
Benedetti, Alio, Angela, Lisa, Anita, Melinda & Mark
Bennett, Fred & Jerry
Bertram, Harry & Dolores
Callis, Walter B.
Coccio, Anthony
Cotten, Edwin
Cotten-Potter, Cory
Crumbie, Watson, Harold & Michah
Debnam, Edward
Boyd, Amy Debnam
Green, Janet Debnam
Eddy, Harry
Lake, Vicki
Gattoni, Leo & Cecilia
Gromley, Marty
Grover, Harry & Steve
Holton, Rosemary
Beitler, Sam
Houseweart, Connie
Hilner, David
Judd, Paul & Shirley
Koonce, Julie
Lacey, Laura
Long, Keith
McCallum, Neal
Riles, Pfuong
McGowan, Bob & Carroll
McGuigan, Jim
Payne, Patty
McKnight, Harry & Barbara
Mears, David A.
Lutte, Louise M.
Mears, Barry M.
Mears, Walter G.
Vyn, Eleanor M.
Mernin, James C. Sr.
Miller, Dennis
Monbeck, Jim
Novicki, Tom, Amy, Tommy & Anna
Paleno, Larry, Colleen, Catherine & Karen
Patterson, Bob
Petriello, Sam
Rice, Jack & Ray
Richards, Elbert R. Jr. & Martha
Rigby, D. C. & Jim
Risher, Carolyn
Roberts, Dick & Pauline
Rouse, Kelley
Russell, Bob & Janet
Sandlaufer, Harry
Ewert, Robin & Terry
Sanner, Minnie Belle & Paul
Schadt, Kathleen
Scherck, Russell & Ginger
Sinatra, Andrew
Stewart, John H.
Perone, Kathleen
Stewart, Denise
Thomas, Jesse
Harris, Chuck & Diane
Lewis, Nate
Twigger, Bill
Speicher-Allocco, Shelly
Ukrop, Sam & Emily
Vojnar, Rudy, Tom & Brittany
Walker, Mary & Larry
Weberling, Dorothy
Wells, Kenneth & Natalie
Wheeler, Rosemary
Bruner, Diann
Whitaker, Dick & Eileen
Willauer, Richard
Wimpee, Guy & Elizabeth
Zimmerman, Bob

We sincerely apologize if we have missed anyone or misspelled any names.

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn Quantico Center, Dumfries, Virginia ~ Friday, August 16, 2013

President Connie Houseweart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. President Houseweart appointed Andy Sinatra and Dick Roberts as Sergeant at Arms.

Roll Call: The following officers were present: President Connie Houseweart, President Elect (and Immediate Past President) Sam Petriello, Secretary Lisa Benedetti, Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse, Chaplain Harry McKnight, Editor Carroll McGowan, Judge Advocate Bob McGowan, Service Officer Dick Roberts. Membership Chairman Jim White and Past President Ed Marsalek were absent and excused. The following Unit Directors were present: Ozzie Aasland (15th Marines), Bob Russell (22nd Marines), Jack Rice (6th Medical Battalion), Marvin Gromley (6th Pioneer Battalion), and Dick Roberts (6th JASCO). The following Unit Directors were absent: George Scott (4th Marines), Henry B. Kemp (29th Marines), Burr Allen (6th Engineering Battalion), Sal Mistretta (6th Tank Battalion), Joe Singleton (6th Recon Co.), and George Tremblay (1st Amphibs). Secretary Benedetti declared a quorum was in attendance (at least 30 members).

Proof of Meeting Notice: President Houseweart stated that the Meeting Notice was published in the spring and summer issues of the Striking Sixth. Secretary Benedetti had a copy available.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2012:

Walter Mears, seconded by Harry Grover, moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2012 Annual Meeting as published in the winter issue of the Striking Sixth. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND UNIT DIRECTORS

President Connie Houseweart: Connie said she has enjoyed her year as president and it has been an honor to serve.

President Elect Sam Petriello: No report.

Secretary Lisa Benedetti: The Annual Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2012 will be signed and filed now that they have been approved.

Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse: The report covered the period of October 1, 2012 to July 31, 2013 (see page 17). Total assets @ 7/31/13 were \$55,808.99. Total assets @ 8/15/13 were \$56,591.01, which did not include many of the expenses for the reunion yet.

Bob Russell, seconded by Marvin Gromley, moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. All in favor, motion carried.

Chaplain Harry McKnight: Chaplain McKnight asked to be given names and addresses of members who may be in assisted living or nursing homes so that he can make contact with them.

Editor Carroll McGowan: The summer edition of the newsletter was recently sent out. President Houseweart mentioned that Carroll has saved the Association over \$800 since taking over as

Editor, as she does the design work herself. The transition from Joe Singleton to Carroll has been seamless.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan: No report.

Membership Chairman Jim White: President Houseweart reported for Jim White. Jim would like to continue as Membership Chairman, if nothing else is done with this position and Flo Doran is retained as Membership Manager. He is proposing amending the bylaws to eliminate the Membership Chair as that position does not really do anything. This matter will be taken under consideration later on the agenda under New Business.

Public Relations - Vacant: President Houseweart stated that Bill Pierce had resigned earlier in the year due to some health issues. Larry Walker has agreed to take over this position and he is part of the slate of officers to be presented for election.

Service Officer Dick Roberts: Grave markers are available for those who may need them.

Immediate Past President Sam Petriello: No report.

Past President Ed Marsalek: No report.

Unit Directors: Bob Russell asked the 22nd Marines to meet him after the meeting. Jack Rice, 6th Medical Battalion, commented that the Corpsman are fading away. He presented a check for \$500 for the scholarship fund in honor of the late Reverend Frank Mack.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee was made up of Sam Petriello, Ed Marsalek and Tiffany Woodhouse. Sam Petriello presented the slate of officers for 2013-14 as follows: President – Sam Petriello, President Elect – Connie Houseweart, Secretary – Lisa Benedetti, Treasurer – Sharon Woodhouse, Chaplain – Harry McKnight, Editor – Joe Singleton (Acting Editor Carroll McGowan), Judge Advocate – Bob McGowan, Membership Chairman – Jim White, Public Relations Officer – Larry Walker, Service Officer – Dick Roberts.

2013 Reunion: President Houseweart reported that the 2013 Reunion Committee consisted of President Connie Houseweart, Secretary Lisa Benedetti, Judge Advocate Bob McGowan, Acting Editor Carroll McGowan, and Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse. Sharon reported there are 37 veterans and 74 guests for a total of 111 people here this year.

Membership: President Houseweart reviewed the Membership Manager's Report. As of August 5, 2013 there are 2,271 names on the roster, which included all the categories. The number of paid subscriptions has risen due to the letter sent out in the spring regarding the fact that all subscriptions must be paid in order for anyone to receive the newsletter. Subscriptions to the newsletter are separate from membership dues. The Membership Manager's Contract for 2014 will remain at \$300 per month. The Board of Directors approved the contract.

Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Bylaws Committee: Bob McGowan had no report.

Scholarship Committee: Bob McGowan reported that about 12 scholarships were awarded. The names will be published at a later date. Right now these scholarships extend to grandchildren of the WWII Marines.

Finance Committee: Sam Petriello reported the committee met August 15, 2013 pursuant to Article X (9) of the Bylaws of the Association. The books were reviewed and the committee found that the financial records and reports appear to be in order.

NEW BUSINESS

Lineal Descendants Oath: Chaplain Harry McKnight stated that he would like to administer an oath he prepared for the lineal descendants to take in honor of their relative who was a member of the 6th Division Marines. He asked all lineal descendants to stand and take the oath. He distributed membership cards to lineal descendants.

Presentations for Reunion 2014: Sharon Woodhouse stated that the Holiday Inn offered the Association the 2013 rates to come back in 2014 for the reunion. The hotel would store the boxes with all the flags and other items of the Association, and that would save shipping costs that are incurred each year. The first two weeks of October are open. There are various excursions that could be set up for next year too. The current reunion committee felt this was a viable idea to present to the membership as there were no other proposals received.

Barb McKnight stated that she had offered to host the reunion in Columbus, Ohio last year and would do so again for 2014 as an alternative. She had no cost particulars, but believed they would be similar to the Quantico area. There is a lot to do in the Columbus area and there is a major airport there.

A show of hands was taken for each proposal and Quantico was chosen as the 2014 Reunion site.

Proposal to Bylaws: Sam Petriello explained that he is proposing combining the Membership Chair position with the Treasurer, since the Membership Manager works closely with the Treasurer, and Jim White, the current Membership Chair, feels the position does not have any duties. Watson Crumbie explained what Jim White meant in his email. He thinks the office of Membership Manager should be made permanent with Flo Dornan in that position. Watson also thinks the Service Officer should be eliminated, as it has no responsibility, except to store the large memorial markers, which are now obsolete. The Chaplain can send condolence letters and a small memorial marker. Bill Pierce will give the Association the small memorial markers. Watson would like to propose an amendment to the Bylaws. He noted that because this amendment to the Bylaws was not previously published, the vote would have to be unanimous for the motion to pass.

Watson Crumbie, seconded by Dick Whitaker, moved to eliminate the office of Service Officer. Vote taken by raising of hands. As it was not unanimous, the motion failed and the amendment was not adopted.

Watson stated that the next motion was on behalf of Jim White, Membership Chair. He would like to see Flo Dornan made the permanent Membership Manager and the Membership Chair be eliminated. He again noted that the vote would need to be unanimous for the motion to pass.

Watson Crumbie, seconded by Ed Cotten, moved to eliminate the position of Membership Chairman and make the Membership Manager a permanent office of this Association.

Bob McGowan explained that the Membership Manager is a paid position for which Flo is paid \$300 per month and she does a great job. There has been discussion about the rate, and if this position is made permanent then a rate scale would need to be set. He would vote against it, because it needs to be thoroughly thought out. He believes it should be put in the newsletter with discussion and a vote taken next year. Sam Petriello read the Membership Chairman's duties from the Bylaws, which is to keep track of members and take their dues. Most of the financial duties are now done by the Treasurer. Mrs. Dornan does a great job as Membership Manager, but she is the only one who has the records, and the Membership Chairman should also have a copy per the duties in the Bylaws. Sam stated that he thinks two people should have the records of the membership in case something happens to the Membership Manager. Also two people should know how the records are kept. He believes the Treasurer should have a second copy. Watson Crumbie stated he has a backup of the records. Sam replied that he knows he does, but he has not given them to the Treasurer. Sam would be willing to propose an amendment in the newsletter to combine the offices of Membership Chair and Treasurer.

President Housewart stated Sam's proposal of eliminating the Membership Chair and combining it with the Treasurer, but still keep the Membership Manager. Helen Simmons seconded the motion. A vote taken by raising the hands was asked for, but there seemed to be too much confusion as to what was being voted on.

Bob McGowan stated that there was a motion on the floor made by Watson Crumbie to eliminate the Membership Chairman's position and make the Membership Manager a permanent office of the Association. Watson reiterated that this was based on Jim White's recommendation.

A voice vote was taken and since the vote was not unanimous, the motion failed.

Bob stated this proposal would be published in the newsletter so a vote could be taken at the next Annual Meeting. Bob then asked Sam if he wanted to continue with a vote on his proposal. Sam stated he will submit the amendment for publication in the newsletter so it can be voted on at the next Annual Meeting.

Sam asked Watson what the date of the last update was and Watson replied that while he did not have a date, it was recently. Watson Crumbie commented that he did not think that two people could manage several thousand records. He believes that just one person should do so, and the Membership Manager should continue to handle the membership records. Bob McGowan reiterated that Flo Dornan does a tremendous job as Membership Manager and everyone agreed.

Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Appreciation Award: Watson Crumbie said he took over the Membership Manager's position in St. Louis for one year before Flo took over. During this year, an Editor was needed and Joe Singleton was the only one to offer. He was Editor for 12-13 years. Watson proposed a proclamation or plaque of appreciation for Joe. All were in favor of this happening, and President Houseweart stated she would take care of it.

Officer Elections: Lisa Benedetti read the officer nominations listed above under the Nominations Committee Report and stated that all had accepted. President Houseweart asked if anyone else was interested, as nominations could be taken from the floor.

David Mears, seconded by Dick Whitaker, moved to accept the nominations and vote. All in favor, motion carried.

President Houseweart asked for nominations of two members at large to serve on the Nominations Committee for 2014.

Anita Benedetti, seconded by Al Benedetti, nominated Barb McKnight to be on the Nominations Committee and Barb accepted. David Mears, seconded by Marvin Gromley, nominated Tiffany Woodhouse to be on the Nominations Committee and Tiffany accepted. All in favor, motion carried.

Bob McGowan stated that he had contacted all of the Unit Directors from last year and they will stand again if there are no objections. The following Unit Directors were elected: 4th Marines – George Scott, 15th Marines – Ozzie Aasland, 22nd Marines – Bob Russell, 29th Marines – Neil McCallum, 6th Medical Battalion – Jack Rice, 6th Engineering – Burr Allen, 6th Tank Battalion – Sal Mistretta, 6th Pioneer Battalion – Marvin Gromley, 6th Recon Co. – Joe Singleton, 6th JASCO – Dick Roberts, and 1st Amphibs – George Tremblay. The 6th Motor Transportation Battalion and 6th Headquarters Battalion positions remain vacant.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the benediction. Adjournment was at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by,
Lisa Benedetti
Secretary

Note: Due to a poor speaker system, members in the back half of the room could not hear everything, and after the meeting they complained of not knowing what was going on or being voted on.

Attachment 1: Financial Report 2012- 13 by Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse

October 1, 2012

Balance	\$ 55,808.99	600.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	715.00	3,940.03	Portland Hilton Hotel
Expense	(5,823.46)	283.43	Flo Dorman, expenses
	<u>\$ 50,700.53</u>	1,000.00	Luciana Young, website

November 1, 2012

Balance	\$ 50,700.53	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	701.04	17.60	Bank charges
Expenses	(317.60)		
	<u>\$ 51,083.97</u>		

December 1, 2012

Balance	\$ 51,083.97	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	755.88	7.50	Bank charges
Expenses	(307.50)		
	<u>\$ 51,532.35</u>		

January 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 51,532.35	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	0.29	7.50	Bank charges
Expenses	(2,779.93)	179.77	Flo Dorman, expenses
	<u>\$ 48,752.71</u>	178.18	Bill Pierce, expenses
		19.48	Stamps/envelopes
		2,095.00	Leesburg Printing

February 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 48,752.71	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	-		
Expenses	(300.00)		
	<u>\$ 48,452.71</u>		

March 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 48,452.71	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	1,350.00	1,400.00	Museum deposit
Expenses	(3,700.00)	2,000.00	Advance to mail letters
	<u>\$ 46,102.71</u>		

April 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 46,102.71	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	1,057.73	3.00	Bank charges
Expenses	(303.00)		
	<u>\$ 10.00</u>		

May 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 46,857.44	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	5,078.50	1,345.56	Leesburg Printing
Expenses	(1,698.38)	52.82	Bank charges
	<u>\$ 50,237.56</u>		

June 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 50,237.56	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	4,080.00	2.84	Mailing expenses
Expenses	(550.18)	247.34	Flo Dorman, expenses
	<u>\$ 53,767.38</u>		

July 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 53,767.38	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	5,525.00	95.84	Supplies to build
Expenses	(4,002.37)	30.09	Wooden box
	<u>\$ 55,290.01</u>	237.41	Pens for Reunion
		1,400.00	Final payment to Museum
		117.96	Printer ink/paper
		1,463.10	Leesburg Printing
		173.43	Name badges
		11.90	Screws for wood box
		68.40	Note pads
		104.24	Event insurance

August 1, 2013

Balance	\$ 55,290.01	300.00	Membership Manager
Deposits	-	885.00	Refunds from 7 cancelations
Expenses	(1,435.00)	250.00	Bagpiper, Memorial Service
	<u>\$ 53,855.01</u>		

Attachment 2: Membership Manager's 2013 Report

August 15, 2013

To: Jim White, Membership Chairman

From: Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

Membership

After removing deceased members, those we have lost and those who have requested to be dropped, we have 2,271 names on the roster. The following is as of August 5, 2013:

Regular Life Members	1,405
Regular Annual - Current*	68
Associate Life Members	595
Associate Annual - Current*	19
Associate LD Life Members	102
Associate LD Annual - Current*	68
Organizations	6
Honorary Members	<u>8</u>
Total Membership	2,271

*Current — Dues paid for 2011 to 2018

There are 525 members whose newsletters have been returned by the USPS without a new or forwarding address. In several newsletters I published the names and last known city of 140 members that we have "lost," asking members to report to me if they see a friend's name and know their whereabouts. I did not receive information on

a single member and therefore gave up on the project.

We had one more member request he be dropped from the membership which makes a total of 56 members. There are 533 widows who are associate members and 62 are up-to-date on their newsletter subscriptions for 2013. A letter was sent to ALL members with reunion information as well as a notation that dues and newsletter subscription fees were due and subscription fees for 2013 must be paid in order to receive a newsletter. That notation resulted in my phone ringing constantly requesting status of subscriptions and dues and a mail box full of mail with checks. Members who had never paid for a newsletter or were way behind on their dues suddenly paid up but I still heard the comment "but I am a Life member and don't have to pay for the newsletter." I think everyone knows now that every one pays.

Newsletter Subscriptions

Following are the number of currently paid subscribers to the newsletter as of August 5, 2013:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014-18</u>
Regular Members	51	168	102
Associate Members	10	237	31
Associate LD Members	14	71	17

Respectfully submitted, Florence Dornan

Attachment 3: Membership Manager's Contract for 2014

August 15, 2013

To: Connie Houseweart, President

Sam Petriello, President-Elect

Lisa Benedetti, Secretary

Jim White, Membership Chairman

From: Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

I am willing to continue another year at the pleasure of the incoming president as Membership Manager handling the same job duties. For clarification purposes, the job duties I perform are as follows:

- 1) Process membership applications for new members; assign an ID number and set up the record with the member's name, address, phone number, e-mail address and military unit information. Prepare a list of new members for each published newsletter.
- 2) Update address changes and keep accurate information on all members.
- 3) Record dues, newsletter subscription fees and donations and deposit in the Sixth Marine Division Association's Wells Fargo bank account. Prepare a spreadsheet indicating the check amounts and their purpose.
- 4) Record reports of member's deaths, including date of death, date reported and by whom, the date published in the newsletter and site of the memorial service.

Advise the Chaplain of each reported death. Prepare a list of Taps for each published newsletter and compile a list of members who have died since the last reunion for the Memorial Service at the annual reunion.

- 5) Keep a record of those who have received a memorial marker.
- 6) Prepare the mailing list for the newsletter printer of all mailing addresses of members eligible to receive the newsletter or to those I am advised to send a newsletter. Provide the editor with typed notes/letters received from members for "Mail Call" and "A Message from the Membership Manager."
- 7) Prepare information and reports requested by the President or Officers of the Association.

I will continue to be answerable to the Membership Chairman regarding membership issues and coordinate with him. My membership manager fee for 2013-2014 will be \$300 per month, payable the FIRST of each month, one month in advance. I will send an expense report for reimbursement of postage and office supplies twice a year. Please advise me of your acceptance of the above terms. You may call me to discuss this contract at any time.

Respectfully submitted, Florence R. Dornan

That Sounds Familiar!

Dear Mrs. Dornan:

I would like to reveal my reaction to the Newsletter for Summer of 2013, which I received a few days ago. As is my usual practice, I started at the front and read cover to cover. When I reached page 18, I became interested in the description about Sugar Loaf Hill as I was involved in the action that occurred in May of 1945. After a paragraph or so, the comments were so familiar that I wondered if I had known the writer and looked forward to see if that was so. Much to my surprise, I was the writer, and then I remembered sending it. I had no idea that my words were going to be published. I just wanted to say that the article I was referring to was deeply appreciated. I add these details because I see it as a humorous reaction of this 90 year old not recalling writing of an event he had experienced 68 years earlier.

In closing, again let me express my appreciation to you and your associates for your efforts. Future generations of Americans will benefit from your work and those of us involved in the events are deeply grateful for your service.

Sincerely,
Merle R. Likens



Ernie Pyle

Dear Carroll,

Enclosed are materials about Ernie Pyle, the most beloved correspondent covering WWII. When the war



HE MET THE MARINES and came to know them aboard a 5th Fleet transport carrying them to Okinawa for the invasion. Ernie is shown autographing the cap of one of the men in the group surrounding him.

Ernie Pyle autographing a cap, with Marines on a 5th Fleet transport headed to Okinawa

Sugar Loaf Hill: Then and Now

Please find some old and new pictures of Sugar Loaf Hill. Now old battlefield became a beautiful part of Nana city.

I thank you very much for Sixth Newsletter you keep sending to me, but unfortunately, not easy for me

to understand because of my English knowledge.

Thank you very much and God bless you all.

Zenichi Yoshimine
Life Member #5775

in Europe was over, he came to the Pacific to report on the Marines. He landed with the 1st Marine Division on 4/1/45. As there was very little action by the 1st and 6th for a few weeks, he went with the 77th on their invasion of Ie Shima. Ernie was killed there at the age of 45 by a Jap machine gunner on 4/20/45. He is buried at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii.

Les Penny
215-752-8091

p.s. My brother Charles W. Penny was KIA on 4/25/45 on Ie Shima with the 77th. He was awarded the D.S.C. and the Bronze Star and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Sugar Loaf Hill in 1945 (top) and today (bottom)



Jim Chaisson, Zenichi Yoshimine, Buzzy Fox on Sugar Loaf Hill 1995

What a Hero Looks Like

Following is an editorial that appeared in the Wall Street Journal on July 30, 2013. George “Bud” Day was 17 in late 1942 when he badgered his parents into allowing him to volunteer for the Marine Corps. He spent nearly three years in the South Pacific during World War II.

After serving as a U.S. Marine in World War II, a normal man might have concluded that he had done more than his share of military service. And anyone still alive after his parachute failed to open upon ejection from an Air Force jet in the 1950s would consider calling it a military career. But Col. George E. “Bud” Day, who died Saturday at age 88, kept putting himself in harm’s way.

And that is why, at age 41, he was flying low over North Vietnam in August 1967. He led a command of forward air controllers — all volunteers because their mission of spotting enemy targets was so dangerous that nearly a quarter of their 155 pilots were shot down. Day’s F-100 was one of them, and he was captured and tortured.

Despite severe injuries he escaped barefoot and fled through the jungle toward South Vietnam. Two days later an explosion tossed his body into the air, rupturing his eardrum and sinuses and tearing his leg with shrapnel. Yet he resumed his journey south, living off frogs and berries as he dodged Communist patrols. Roughly two weeks after his escape, he was in sight on an American base when a North Vietnamese soldier pointed a rifle at him. Day tried to escape again but was shot in the hand and thigh and captured.

Refused medical treatment and suffering infections, Day must have seemed ill-equipped to resist his captors. And yet through years of captivity he provided them only false information to avoid giving anything that might help shoot down more Americans.

His determination was a inspiration to fellow Americans at the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” prison. In February 1971, Day and several others were discovered hold-

ing a forbidden religious service. According to the Air Force, “As the guards burst into the meeting room with rifles pointed at the prisoners, one of the Americans stood to his feet. Ragged, battered but unbroken, it was George Day. Looking into the muzzles of the enemy rifles he began to sing.”

The song was the Star-Spangled Banner, and one by one other prisoners joined in the song. James B. Stockdale, who sang along that day and like Day would win a Medal of Honor, would recall, “Our minds were now free and we knew it.”



SECOND IN A SERIES:

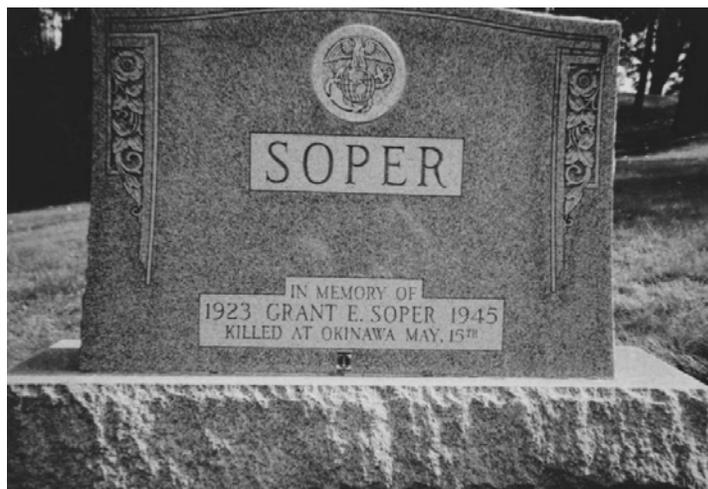
Searching for My Dad's Buddies

By Bob McGowan

My Dad was a squad leader in the 3rd Platoon, H/3/29. All my life I heard about my Dad's men who were killed on Okinawa, most of them on May 14, 1945 in one costly assault on a little hill off to the left flank of Sugar Loaf. Like most Marines, my Dad spoke of them by their last name only; Soper, Martin, Laney, Pallo and so forth. As far back as I can remember, I knew that my Dad's best buddy was Corporal Soper. I knew that they shared a fox hole and that Soper was killed on the same day my Dad and most of their platoon were killed or wounded. I knew that when my Dad scrounged "Ten and One" C-rations from the Army that eleven rations spread among the 13 Marines left two guys hungry, my Dad and Soper. That made a big impression on me as a kid. A Marine feeds his men first, and his buddy would rather go hungry with him than eat in front of him.

After my Dad died in 1999 I started trying to locate his buddy. I saw from the Honor Roll in the History of the Sixth Marine Division that his full name was Grant Elmer Soper. I searched online and found a Grant Soper that was born in Poughkeepsie, NY in 1923. I wrote the local library and they sent me a copy of an article and a picture that was published after his parents were notified of his death. I registered Grant in the Registry of the WWII Memorial, and shortly after that I was contacted by Pat Soper, Grant's niece. She told me that Grant was one of four boys, three of whom fought in WWII, including Pat's father Roy. I arranged to meet Pat and her husband Jim Zeleniak to tell them what I knew of Grant and what happened on 5/14/45. After my Dad was gravely wounded, he gave Grant command of the squad, which was down to three men. Before Dad crawled into a tomb and passed out, the last thing he saw was Grant and PFC Josephus Judge going over the top of the hill. They never came back.

Pat told me where Grant was buried and later that year I made my way to Poughkeepsie to pay my



Final Resting Place of Corporal Grant E. Soper

respects. As I drove past the rivers and streams of the Mid-Hudson Valley, I thought of how my Dad would have loved to visit Grant after the war to hunt and fish and have a beer or two. The cemetery was beautiful. The staff drew me a map to Grant's grave and I headed over there. From a distance I could see the name SOPER carved in a large headstone with a big Eagle, Globe and Anchor. I affixed one of the small 6th MARDIV emblems at the base, saluted, and then I called Pat. I can't remember what we said, but I think we both cried. I know I did. As I was standing there, two Mallard ducks went flying past, haulin' ass. It reminded me of two Marines, going hell bent for leather; now you see them, now they're gone.

This is from the WWII Memorial Registry:

Grant E. Soper U.S. Marine Corps Poughkeepsie, NY
ENLISTED ON 12/9/43. TRAINED AT PARRIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA AND PUERTO RICO. STATIONED AT WASHINGTON D.C. FOR SIX MONTHS BEFORE JOINING THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION. SERVED IN THE 1ST SQUAD, 3RD PLATOON, H COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 29TH MARINE REGIMENT. KILLED IN ACTION ON 5/14/45, WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE ASSAULT ON SUGAR LOAF HILL.

My original entry also included "He was my Dad's best friend," but they edited that out for some reason; I have no idea why. But I'm here to tell you that it was the truth.

Semper Fidelis,
Bob McGowan
USMC 1973-1976

From the Historian's Corner

WHERE AND HOW TO SHARE YOUR WWII ARTIFACTS

Several people have recently asked: What is the proper place to share WWII artifacts? If a member of the "greatest generation" kept an item all these years, one knows that it must have been special to them... but what does one do with those items when a friend/parent/husband is downsizing or has passed away?

If arrangements have not been made for those items, here are a few ideas. One suggestion is to contact a local county/city museum and or library. They may be very interested in the items, especially if they are accompanied with a period picture of the person who owned them or one that ties him/her to the community. Another place might be the local Marine League. There is also the museum in Okinawa on Camp Kinser. Unfortunately, places like the National Museum of the Marine Corps get so many donations that unless an item has some very special circumstance or was used by someone "famous," they don't seem to have much interest in them anymore.

Another possibility that is more personal, is creating a display for someone special in your family who will appreciate the significance of such a gift. In our family, both of my sons have special mementos passed to them by a member of Sixth that are not only treasured, but they can tell the history of them. Hence the story of the Battle of Okinawa continues. My daughter was also given an item and she proudly displays it in her first home. For items kept in families, make sure they are preserved in a way that they will not deteriorate, especially for pictures and papers. Here is a website that may be helpful with that:
<http://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/storing-photos.html>.

Another place that can be helpful with pictures and papers is the GRC or Alfred M. Grey Marine Corps Research Center, which is located at Quantico. The archives already has a Sixth collection that I created. I have been told it is the best Division collection. The GRC supports the educational needs of the Marine Corps University, Marines worldwide, and other Marine Corps researchers (like me!). Here again, they are probably not interested in your "green book" (they have countless of them) or official Marine Corps pictures. However, unique

items—V-mail, personal pictures, diaries – are different. They also give historians a better picture of what the "regular guys" went through during that time. The address of the GRC is: Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center, 2040 Broadway St., Quantico, VA 22134

Preserving our past and the legacy of our families is a valuable and important task. I hope that members of the Sixth are sharing their 'sea stories' with a special young person, perhaps one who is not even a family member. I encourage you to write or tape record your experiences, and I hope you know that there are people out there who care very much about the freedoms that you allowed us to continue to enjoy.

You can contact me if I can be of assistance at laurahlacey@gmail.com or L4RATS@comast.net

~Laura Lacey



Military Honors for Funerals

We were informed during the Marine Corps Base tour at the reunion in August that the Marine Corps will set up military honors for a Marine's funeral service anywhere in the country.

Just call **866-826-3628**. Or you can give this number to the funeral home.

They will make sure that at least two Marines are there and will play taps. The Marine Corps takes this responsibility very seriously.

Phone numbers for the other branches of the service are:

Army - 502-624-6051

Navy - 877-478-3988

Air Force - 937-257-8964



TAPS

All of us in the Sixth Marine Division Association extend our sympathy to the family and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

BANKUS, Frederick S.	29 th Mar-2-E	06/06/1996
EAGLETON, James R.	4 th Mar-1-B	05/21/2013
GAUNT, Mark W.	29 th Mar-1-C	03/08/2011
HOLLAR, William	6 th Motor Transport Bn-B	03/31/2013
MUETZEL, Harold Glenn	6 th Jasco	03/20/2013
RUCINSKI, Elmer	22 nd Mar-1-B	01/14/2013
RUCINSKI, Helen	Wife of Elmer Rucinski	01/16/2013
STINEKRAUS, James E.	4 th Mar-2-F	03/08/2013
STULTS, Marion B.	7 th Field Depot	03/09/2013
THIEL, Joseph E.	6 th Engineer Bn-H&S	12/07/2010
VAN IDOUR, William J.	15 th Mar-4-K	09/00/2012

Original Colors of the 6th Marine Division: Safe and Sound

Special thanks to Watson Crumbie (29th Mar-1-C) for tracking down the original colors of the 6th Marine Division, which had been restored, framed and donated to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum several years ago. He was concerned about the colors after hearing that the museum asked the Marine Raider Association to retrieve or remove the artifacts the Raiders had donated to the museum.

Mr. Crumbie received the following e-mail from the Director of the MCRDM:

From: McCurtis CIV Barbara S
To: wcrumbie@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2013 11:30 AM
Subject: 6 Mar Div

Sir:
Attached are the colors -- they hang in the staff hall just outside my office. Please tell your members that the colors were removed from display to maintain their exhibit quality and protect them from damage. We have other artifacts on display in the WWII galleries from your Marines, and as you may know the 6thMarDiv gallery was in place in the museum for more than 10 years. It is in the best interest of the artifacts, and our audience, to keep a constant turn-over of objects on display. If any members are in the museum and would like to see the colors, please tell them to walk down the staff hall and say hello. We are on the first floor of the museum and the door is marked Museum Staff. Thanks for your inquiry and have a great Marine Corps day.



The original colors of the 6th Marine Division at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum in San Diego

Note: You can contact Watson Crumbie at wcrumbie@yahoo.com or 214-405-3728

From the Editor

I hope that everyone who attended the Reunion this year enjoyed themselves as much as I did. It was my first visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and now I understand why everyone who has been there talks about it with a sense of awe. It truly is amazing. It was not my first visit to the base at Quantico, but it was my first visit since my



husband was stationed there in the 1970's. It was interesting — and fun — to go back. Seeing today's Marines certainly made me feel good about our country. (You certainly don't get that feeling from the news.)

Although everything wasn't perfect, apparently it was good enough for most people, because the attendees voted to have the 2014 Reunion in Quantico again. That gives us a chance to correct the things that went wrong (although I don't think we'll be able to fix the traffic.) One thing we don't need to improve on is the weather — it could not have been better. But what makes a reunion is the people who are there. So there is no doubt in my mind it will be another wonderful time.

Finally, I want to thank Paul Sanner, Sharon Woodhouse, Lisa Benedetti, Jim Rigby, and Shelly Speicher-Allocco for sharing their pictures from the reunion with me — and with all of you — in this newsletter.

~ Carroll McGowan

chm1423@aol.com, 412-341-9219

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter Renewal — Pay Now

If you want to receive the newsletter in spring 2014, please pay your Newsletter Subscription fee by December 31. Everyone must pay to get the newsletter, even Life Members of the Association.

Annual members should also pay their 2014 dues at this time.

To renew your subscription, please send a check for \$10 payable to The Sixth Division Association to Flo Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011.

2014 Reunion

Mark your calendars. The 2014 Reunion will be held in Quantico on October 7-12. Same hotel — the Holiday Inn Quantico Center. Same site for the Memorial Service and Dinner Banquet — the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Look for more information in the spring issue of the Striking Sixth Newsletter. Which you won't get if you don't pay your subscription fee. (see note above) Of course you can always view the newsletter online at: www.sixthmarinedivision.com.

How to Apply for Scholarships

Applications for the 2014-2015 school year will be taken from January 1 through March 1, 2014.

Grandchildren are welcome to create accounts on the website at www.mcsf.org. They will then receive an e-mail when the next application session begins. Marines will need to provide a copy of their DD214 and proof of their membership in the 6th Marine Division Association to their grandchild to confirm their eligibility. The application process is the responsibility of the grandchild.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob McGowan 412-341-9219 or chmcg11@aol.com.

Commemorative Bricks at the NMMC

To buy a commemorative brick for the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, contact the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at 1-800-397-7585 or online at: http://www.usmcmuseum.com/Involved_Bricks.asp

Bricks cost \$300 each, and you'll receive a Certificate of Registration a few weeks after the purchase. Installations occur at various times during the year, and space is limited, so move fast if you'd like to see a brick in place by our 2014 reunion in October.

Message from the Membership Manager

My desk has been somewhat quiet since the reunion with the exception of new members, folks paying dues and for the newsletter, and advising me of their new address so they won't miss the next newsletter. I have learned that receiving the newsletter is very important to our old heroes as they don't want to miss anything that is happening in the Association. That leads me to remind everyone that **the newsletter must be paid for 2014 in order to receive the next Striking Sixth**, which will be sent out next spring. All subscriptions are on a calendar year basis, January 1 to December 31. Be sure to check your label for your expiration dates. [See the bottom of page 26 for the coding on the label.]

I wish you all wonderful holidays with your families, and it is my intention to do the same.

Respectfully submitted,
Flo Dornan Membership Manager
(817) 275-1552
sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net
704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011



Donations

Many thanks to those listed below:

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Spadaccia, Joseph
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New Members

BANKUS, Brent, ID #6188
Son of Fredrick S. Bankus, 29th-2-E
Annual Associate LD Member
Diane (Spouse)
22 Glendale Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-602-3384

BEAVER, Don R., ID #6195
1st 155mm Rifle Bn, Annual Member
Chris (Spouse)
2414 Windward Drive
Monarch Beach, CA 92629
949-493-7430
dbeav333@cox.net

BEITLER, Richard S., ID #6191
Annual Associate Member
7327 Leisure Lane
Mason, OH 45040
513-336-8127
reltieb@cinci.com

BENNETT, Gerald T., ID #6190
Son of Frederick J. Bennett, 4th Mar-3-L
Life Associate LD Member
1328 S 91st Street
West Allis, WI 53214-2855
414-475-6145

KOONCE, Julie, ID #6193
Annual Associate Member
14365 SW Beef Bend Road, #E-8
Tigard, OR 97224
Kooncebanker@gmail.com

NYMAN, John Andrew, ID #6194
Son of John William Nyman, 29th Mar-2-D
Life Associate LD Member
Angel (Spouse)
9171 N Parkview Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815-4141
225-952-9132
andnyman@cox.net

PATTERSON, Bob M., ID #6187
Son of Elmer Patterson, 29th Mar-3-I
Life Associate LD Member
Angela (Spouse)
P.O. Box 383
Warm Springs, GA 31830-0383
706-977-8279
bobpatterson@windstream.net

PAYNE, Patricia, ID #6192
Daughter of James A. McGuigan,
29th Mar-2-G
Annual Associate LD Member
439 Chalfonte Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228
410-978-2979
pjpayne1984@verizon.net

SIEVERTSON, Donald W., ID #6196
Son of William O. Sievertson
6th Marine Division
3923 Wintergreen Drive
Humble, TX 77396
713-502-4757

VRETTOS, Valerie, ID #6189
Daughter of Peter Vrettos, 22nd Mar-3-I
Annual Associate LD Member
53 Sunset Ridge Road
Wells, ME 041090

Membership Status

@ October 19, 2013

Regular	1,219
Associate	600
Lineal Descendant	174
Honorary	8
Total Membership	2,001

Newsletter Subscribers

@ October 19, 2013

Paid for 2013	265
Paid for 2014	126
Paid for 2015 and beyond	96
Honorary Members	8

Membership Application / Change of Address Form

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____ E-Mail Address _____

Company _____ Battalion _____ Regiment _____ Other _____

If this is a change of address, enter your 4 digit ID#, which is on the left, right above your name, on the mailing label _____

Old Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

If you are applying for membership as an Associate Member, provide name of relative who served with the Sixth Marine Division:

Relative's Name _____ Relationship _____

His unit within the Division, if known _____

Annual dues (\$10 per year).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____.....Amount due: \$ _____

Life Membership (\$75).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____.....Amount due: \$ _____

Newsletter Subscriptions

Subscription to the Striking Sixth Newsletter of the Sixth Marine Division (\$10 per year).....Amount due: \$ _____

Annual dues and subscriptions to the newsletter are based on a calendar year

Additional copies of the newsletter are \$3.50

Donations

Membership Directory Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

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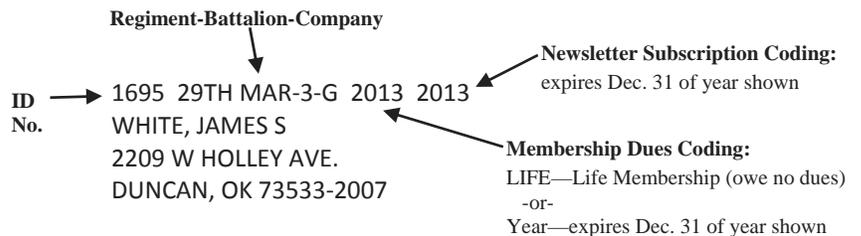
Make check payable to The Sixth Division Association Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: Florence R. Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011

E-mail: Sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net Phone: (817) 275-1552

Please remember: Membership dues are separate from Newsletter subscriptions. To continue receiving the Newsletter, you must pay for a subscription each year, even if you are a Life Member of the Association. Check the back of the newsletter to see when your current membership and newsletter subscription expires. See coding instructions below.

Check your address on the back cover to see if your membership and newsletter are paid up to date.
If there is no barcode on your label, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Please contact your Post Office.





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Bob McGowan, Lisa Benedetti



Andy Sinatra, Harry Bertram



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Striking Sixth Newsletter

Winter 2013

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Mark your calendar:
2014 Reunion
October 7-12
Quantico, VA

