

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 40, No. 1

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2015

Columbus, Here We Come!

2015 REUNION — AUGUST 17-23 — COLUMBUS, OHIO

Three fun field trips:

Aug. 18—Motts Military Museum

Aug. 19—Columbus Bus Tour

Aug. 20—Air Force Museum

Plus Memorial Service, Dinner Banquet and catching up with friends



Motts Military Museum



Air Force Museum



German Village



Ohio Statehouse



Ohio State University

Rise of the Valiant: New Okinawa Film Now Available on DVD

A son's moving tribute to his father's experience on Okinawa with the Sixth Marine Division, this film tells the story of the battle through the eyes of Sixth Marine Division veterans.

This is an outstanding film. See page 3 to learn more about the film and where to purchase it.

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More Reunion Info

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page 13: schedule of events

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Spring 2015



6th Marine Division Reunion Columbus Airport Marriott

August 17- 23, 2015

Make your reservations now!

800-491-5717

Or use the link on our website:
www.sixthmarinedivision.com



If You Are Going (and we hope you are!)...

- 1) Make your hotel reservations by July 31. Use the phone number above (or the internet) and mention the 6MarDiv Reunion.
- 2) Send in your registration form by August 1. See pages 15-16.
- 3) Make your travel arrangements. The hotel is one mile from the Columbus Airport and has a free shuttle that will pick you up. See page 14 for more information.

The dinner banquet, memorial service, annual meeting, and ladies auxiliary meeting and lunch will all be held at the hotel.



Questions?

Contact Barb or Harry McKnight
phone: (614) 866-3456
e-mail: barbandht6321@aol.com



Key Deadlines

July 31—make hotel reservations

August 1—send in registration form

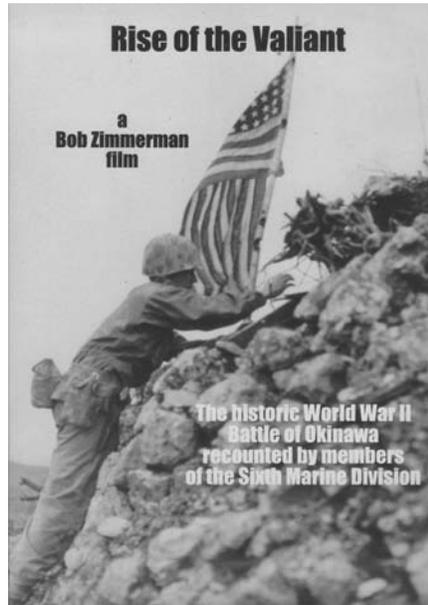
Rise of the Valiant: Excellent New Film on 6MarDiv in Battle of Okinawa — Now Available on DVD

LINEAL DESCENDENT HONORS HIS FATHER WITH FILM THAT BRINGS THE BATTLE TO LIFE

After finding letters his late father wrote to his parents from Okinawa during World War II, filmmaker Bob Zimmerman determined to honor his father's sacrifice by telling the story of the Sixth Marine Division on Okinawa in film. He began by emailing Joe Singleton and Bill Pierce of the Sixth. By the time he was done, he had traveled more than 6,000 miles to interview veterans of the battle and to collect war footage and pictures from the National Archives, the Marine Corp History Division, the National Museum of the Pacific War, and others.

The result is an extraordinary film that tells the story of the battle of Okinawa through the eyes of the Marines who were there. Their stories take us from their enlistment in the Marine Corps to their homecoming after the war. But the focus is on their experience in Okinawa, and what an experience it was.

This is a beautifully made film. It doesn't overdramatize the



Sixth Division Marines Interviewed in the Film

- Junior Montgomery
4th MAR-3-I
- Bill Pierce
29th MAR-WPNS
- Fred Westphal
6th RECON CO
- Dick Whitaker
29th MAR-2-F
- Jim White
29th MAR-3-G
- Roy Wilkes
29th MAR-1-C

events, like many war films do. It's full of drama and emotion, but it's not shot out of a cannon at you. It sinks in slowly as you listen to the veterans speak. Bob lets the Marines tell their stories and they all combine to provide a fascinating and moving portrait of the battle. The interviews, which are the highlight of the film, are supplemented with a superb photographs and footage from the war.

I highly recommend this film to anyone with an interest in the Sixth Marine Division. It would make a wonderful purchase or gift for a lineal descendent or relative who would like a better understanding of what their father or grandfather experienced. I think the veterans and their wives would like it as well.

~Carroll McGowan

Note: Bob's father, Al Zimmerman, was in Recon Company, Headquarters Battalion. He landed on Okinawa on April 1, 1945 and was there for the duration.

Where To Buy *Rise of the Valiant*

To see a trailer or to purchase the DVD:

<http://www.parasol.com/artists/bob-zimmerman/rise-valiant/>

You can also purchase it on Amazon:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00PWJ3UT2/>

The cost is **\$15**. Bob tells us a portion of each sale will be donated to the Semper Fi Fund.

This is the One to Pass Along

Bob:

I just ran your DVD for the third time and want you to know it is, by far, the best interview in which I have ever been involved. It even tops the History Channel's *Sugar Loaf Hill* documentary. If I had to choose, I'd want yours to be the one I pass along to my children and grandchildren. Your father would be very proud and grateful for your tribute to him. Congratulations, and thanks. I can't wait to see your final cut.

Dick Whitaker

New Members

BANKE, Daniel, ID #6212
Associate Annual Member
Marine Corps Security Force Bn
227 Brackenfern Way
Kingsland, GA 31548
912-674-5720
dbanke621@yahoo.com

HARRIS, Diane L., ID #6216
Associate LD Annual Member
Daughter of Jesse Thomas (22nd Mar-2-G)
Spouse: Chuck
492 Mature Road
Cochranville, PA 19330
484-880-1725
luvhockey69@yahoo.com

LASORDA, Dr. Mark, ID #6211
Associate LD Life Member
Grandson of Sam Petriello (15th Mar-4-L)
926 Lovering Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19806

LIKINS, Merle R., ID #5933
Annual to Life Regular Member
15th Mar-3-K

LYNCH, Jonathan D., ID #6213
Associate LD Life Member
Son of C.A. Peter Lynch (29th Mar-2-HQ)
Spouse: Gloria
31 Skaret Road
East Hartland, CT 06027-1316
860-653-40414
JDLCT@aol.com

SEIFEL, Burton R., ID #6210
Associate Annual LD Member
Son of Richard W. Seifel (22nd Marines)
23 4th Avenue NW
Watertown, SD 57201
605-237-4497
bseifel@wat.midco.net

SEIFEL, Richard W., ID #6209
Annual Regular Member (22nd Marines)
23 4th Avenue NW
Watertown, SD 57201
Sunbury, PA 17801
cjchem@1cloud.com

WALKER, Jr., Robert J., ID #6215
Associate LD Annual Member
Son of Robert Jackson Walker, Sr.
6th Marine Division
Spouse: Darla
915 133rd Street East
Bradenton, FL 34212
941-749-0017
rwalk40@aol.com

Donations from Caring Members and Friends

DIRECTORY

Nancy Camise
Angelo DePaola
Orville Eide
John Knerr
Marvin Seyfer
Joseph Spadaccia

GENERAL FUND

Bennett Bard
Nancy Camise
Orville Eide
June Lestelle *
Gillian Martin
William Maskal
Ted Rush
Marvin Seyfer
Joseph Spadaccia
Charles Stringham

LIFE CARD

Jonathan Lynch *

MEMORIAL MARKER FUND

Douglas Dunbar
William Maskal
Marvin Seyfer
Joseph Spadaccia

NEWSLETTER FUND

Merle Likins

** Over and above*



Downtown Columbus Skyline



**SIXTH MARINE DIVISION
ASSOCIATION
2014-2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Elected Officers

**PRESIDENT &
PRESIDENT ELECT**

Connie Houseweart
258 Sechler Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754
(570) 433-4402
almostnuts@comcast.net

SECRETARY

Lisa Benedetti
6039 Wilson Mills Road
Cleveland, OH 44143
(440) 442-0386
lisabene@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Sharon Woodhouse
20585 SW Genoa Court
Aloha, OR 97007
(503) 799-4455
sjawoodhouse@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN

Harry McKnight
6321 Alissa Lane
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 866-3456
harrym1677@aol.com

EDITOR

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

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Bob McGowan
1423 Pueblo Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 341-9219
chmcg11@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

James S. White
2209 Holly Avenue
Duncan, OK 73533
(580) 255-2689
jsw116@aol.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jim Monbeck
18104 87th Avenue East
Puyallup, WA 98375
(253-446-7638)
milowash@earthlink.net

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant

PAST PRESIDENT

Sam Petriello
3016 Hemlock Drive
Norristown, PA 19401
(610) 937-7500

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Andrew Sinatra
144 Barbuda Street
Berkeley, NJ 08757
(732) 505-2998

Newsletter Subscription Dues for 2015 were due December 31, 2014. Remember — you must pay for the newsletter each year, even if you are a Lifetime Member.

Unit Directors

4th Marines	George Scott
15th Marines	Ozzie Aasland
22nd Marines	Vacant
29th Marines	Neil McCallum
6th Motor Trans Battalion	Vacant
6th Medical Battalion	David Titus
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	Vacant
1st Amphibs	George Tremblay

MEMBERSHIP MGR.

Florence R. Dornan
704 Cooper Court
Arlington, TX 76011
(817) 275-1552
sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

**LADIES AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

Barbara McKnight
6321 Alissa Lane
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 866-3456
barbandht6321@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Laura Lacey
14313 River Junction Dr.
Fredericksburg VA 22407
(540) 809-4027
laurahlacey@gmail.com

The Striking Sixth Newsletter

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

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Membership applications, dues, donations, address changes, and record changes should be mailed with an application (see page 25) to:

Florence R. Dornan
704 Cooper Court
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

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



RIP—Francis “Huck” Wetzel

I am Frank Wetzel's daughter, and I wanted to let you know my father passed away on January 3 at the age of 89 years.

My father had been sick for a while and bedridden for the last six months of his life. I am a nurse with 38 years experience and was able to care for my dad over the last few years. This enabled him to pass away in his home in his own bed as he desired. My husband, Bill, and I were at his bedside when he passed.

He was truly, as they say, “once a Marine always a Marine. He enjoyed belonging to the 6th Marine Division Association and attending the reunions. He and I had planned to attend one of the reunions a couple of years ago, but he was not feeling well, so we did not go. He and my mom are buried at Fort Mitchell National Cemetery, Georgia.

Mary Wetzel Jolly
Mfw741@aol.com



Final resting place of Frank Wetzel

Private Eddie Saxe, G-3-29

I have just finished reading "On the Point of the Spear" by James White and found it fascinating. An uncle of mine, Private Eddie Saxe, was with G Company, 29th Marine Regiment on Okinawa. He was KIA on May 14th just as the battle for Sugar Loaf Hill was developing.

I am wondering if there are any members of that unit who are still alive who might have known my uncle. He was just a kid at 18 when he was killed. He was from New York.

Many thanks,
 David Fulenwider
dfulenwider1944@gmail.com



Married 70 Years

Just a note to tell you that I enjoy the newsletter subscription and I want to continue it.

Also, my wife, Mary Helen Leisey, died on 9/28/14. She was a RN Cadet Nurse in WWII in Butler, PA at the Deshon Army Hospital. We were married 70 years!

Al Leisey, Jr.
 8 Franklin Drive
 Elizabethtown, PA 17022



Long Time Overseas

Dear Mrs. Dornan,

I went overseas in January 1943. Trained in New Zealand. Made landings in Bougainville, Emirau, Guam and 2 in Okinawa. Yes, Sugar Loaf will never be forgotten. Home August 9, 1945. A lot of time over-

seas. Shipped to FBI school at Quantico. Discharged October 1945.

God bless,
 Red Eide, Co. A 6th Tanks
 3601 Woodale Avenue, Apt. 416
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416



Happy Memories

Dear Florence,

Vince has been gone ten years but I still enjoy the newsletters. It brings back many happy memories. There are few of his friends left and just a few I recognized in this last issue. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
 Nancy Camise
 5 Martin Drive
 Bridgeton, NJ 08302-5927



After the War

Florence,

When the 22nd came back to the states it was stationed at U.S. Marine Base Quantico, VA. I got to be with them from July 1948 to 1950 when I volunteered for Sea Duty in a Marine Detachment aboard ship. After Sea School at Navy Base in Norfolk, I joined the Detachment for the U.S.S. Des Moines (CA134) for 23 months and then went to the 2nd Mar Div at Camp Lejeune until discharge. Best duty I really appreciated.

Merry Christmas,
 Jim O'Hara
 (Semper Fi/OOOrah)
 1204 S Military Trail
 Apt. 3202, Bldg. 3,
 Deerfield Beach, FL 33442



Wounded on Sugar Loaf

Flo,

Enclosed is a check for Clyde's 2015 subscription dues for the Striking Sixth Newsletter. I am not enclosing the Application on page 25 because we wanted to keep the article on page 26 because Clyde was wounded on Sugar Loaf. He then lived in Tsingtao University, China for six months. Clyde has Parkinson's Disease now, but enjoys me reading the newsletter to him. He is a life member.

Doris J. Bower (Clyde's wife)
800 Hausman Road, Apt. 263
Allentown, PA 18104-84985



Sweet Treat at the Marine Corps Ball

Flo:

Enclosed is my check for my 2015 dues. I'm a little late. My wife says, "What's new!"

My son is a former Marine. He and his wife, and me and my wife attend the Marine Corps Birthday Balls. I made it! At the last Ball I received the first piece of cake! I may be in line for the next year's first piece of cake. I wouldn't appreciate the alternative!

Take care Flo, and keep up the good work.

John Albanese,
277 Quinnipiac Street
Wallingford, CT 0649-3547



Keeping Newsletters Coming

Sirs:

First I would like to express my admiration for the latest issue of the newsletter, which records details of the annual meeting for 2014. As usual the newsletter has done an excellent job.

Within a couple of weeks I will reach the age of 92 and at the end of 2014 it will have been 69 years since I finished my tour in the First Marine Provisional Brigade and the Sixth Division. I am pleased to say that today, when I think of an occurrence in those war years, my thoughts are usually on the humorous or interesting occurrences rather than things that I experienced at Sugar Loaf Hill. But that is too much off the subject. What I am writing about is how to keep my contact with the Striking Sixth Newsletter.

I see that I need to send my dues for 2015 to keep the newsletter coming. The attached check is more than sufficient to do that. I do not know if I ever contributed the \$75 needed to make me a "life time member" so I have added that amount to the enclosed check. If I am already a life time member, you may use the \$75 for some other activity of the Newsletter. I am not requesting the surplus from the donation be used to pay future Newsletters. I will do so as they come due.

Thanks,
Merle Likins,
1223 Summit Avenue,
Louisville, KY 40204

Note from the Membership Manager:
Merle was not a life member but he is now!

Looking for Vets Willing to Talk About Japan's Treatment of Civilians During WWII

I work in Virginia (Williamsburg) for NHK Broadcasting, the public TV network in Japan. We are making a historical documentary program about the Battle of Okinawa, and we are trying to find veterans who are willing to do on-camera interviews in the U.S.

In particular, we are looking for U.S. veterans who can talk about the Japanese military's use of civilians as human shields, and how the Japanese government told those civilians that U.S. forces would commit atrocities if they successfully invaded the island. This led to suicides and other needless deaths by people scared about the American successes. In addition, we want to find people who can talk about the boys who were pressed into service by the Japanese military.

As you know, these are topics that are slowly being erased from text and other books in Japan, and we want to ensure that the record of that battle is complete and accurate before this generation of first-hand witnesses are gone.

I can assure you that this is a first-rate historical enterprise and that the veterans will be treated with respect.

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me.

Bob Evans
NHK Broadcasting
bobevans52@cox.net
757-564-6331

From the Historian's Corner

FIRST MARINE DIVISION ON OKINAWA

Although the Sixth Marine Division (awarded the Presidential Unit Citation after doing more than its share on Okinawa) is nearest and dearest to our hearts, looking at the role of the other American fighting units on the island can add to our understanding of the battle as a whole.

Formation of the Tenth Army

For Operation Iceberg, a new army was formed. The Tenth Army was unique — it was a joint fighting force that set a precedent and is now frequently utilized. Recalled Brigadier General Oliver P. Smith, Marine Deputy Chief of Staff for the invasion, “The Tenth Army became an effective joint task force under CINCPAC.”

The Tenth Army included 183,000 military personnel, and its individual elements were a seasoned fighting force comprised of the 1st, 2nd and 6th Marine Divisions and the 7th, 27th, 77th and 96th Infantry Divisions. For example, at least one-third of the Marines on Okinawa were veterans of other campaigns. The Tenth Army was commanded by Simon Bolivar Buckner and took on Mitsuru Ushijima's Thirty-Second Army. Buckner worked hard to make a multiservice command work effectively; he used all of his talent, including thirty-four Marine officers who were on his staff, and the naval task force even included a British ship.

Second Marine Division

One of the Marine Divisions involved in the invasion was the Second Marine Division, which had previously fought at Guadal-

canal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian and was commanded by Major General LeRoy P. Hunt. It served as the floating reserve for the battle. However, elements of the Division would be pulled in to help, and the entire Division would come in after the battle. In early May, the Division's 8th Regiment made several landings in the Ryukus Islands. In late May they filled in with the First Division during the move south at the end of the battle. (Ironically, Buckner had gone forward and was observing the 8th Regiment on June 18, 1945 when he was killed.)



Lt. General Simon Bolivar Buckner right before he was killed by a Japanese artillery shell on Okinawa

First Marine Division

The First Marine Division, often referred to as the Old Breed, also received the Presidential Unit Citation for Okinawa and was instrumental in winning the battle. It was activated aboard the USS Texas on February 1, 1941. It is the oldest, largest and most decorated division in the USMC. They were in the first major Pacific campaign at Guadalcanal and in the last at Okinawa. The Regiments were the 1st, 5th, 7th and 11th. Its commander on Okinawa was Major General Pedro A. del Valle.



Prepared for Casualties

On Love Day, April 1, 1945, the Sixth Marine Division landed on Green and Red Beaches. The First Marine Division landed just a bit to the south on Yellow and Blue Beaches. Both Divisions had the same feeling of disorientation. The Tenth Army was prepared for death on Okinawa's beaches. Past experience had taught the Americans that amphibious landings were brutal affairs, and this one was expected to be even worse because it would be the first American landing on “Japanese soil.”

As described in the book *The Old Breed*, the Marines prepared for the landing in their LSTs “with grim anticipation... The men gathered around the newest maps, brought in by underwater demolition men.” They were briefed on what to expect: this was going to be a fierce battle. Battle hardened troops and new recruits alike knew no matter what the cost, they had a job to do that must be done.

continued on next page

First Marine Division on Okinawa

continued from prior page

(As a side note: One of the men who may have made the last evaluations and maps of Okinawa was the 6th's Jim Chaisson, who just prior to the landing had been assigned to a UDT team.)

Unexpected Landing

The first assault waves reached the shores at 08:39 and found no resistance. The momentum of the takeover was extraordinary. In fact the entire First Division's zone of action, which they had planned to take fifteen days to secure, was secured in four days! The Division had completely crossed the island and had completed their objective for the campaign. An unopposed landing was something no one had even considered; adjustments had to be quickly made. They began building a logistical base, and trying to take care of the Okinawan civilians. They used the time for training and patrolling, as well as doing what Marines do whenever they are inactive—concocting *jun-gle juice* out of raisins and sick bay alcohol, and seeking other ways to keep from getting bored. By the third week in April, movies were even being shown. Many men felt like they had been given a second lease on life, while others, perhaps wiser, waited for the next shoe to fall.

The battle was, in fact, continuing, and the men got reminders: airplanes strafed them and they watched Japanese kamikazes deliver death to American naval personnel. Slowly it became clear that the Japanese were using a different tactic on Okinawa. Ushi-

jima would use the southern third of Okinawa to wage his war of attrition. The island was an ideal defensive spot with its limestone plateau, terracing, coral caves and tombstones.

While the Sixth planted a flag on the northern tip and moved back to Nago and the First waited, the Army was taking a beating. Soon the Marines knew that their battle was NOT over and that they would be moving south. By April 30, the First Marine Division would move into the western side of the battle front and into the lines of the badly mauled and demoralized 27th Division. In front of them was the bulk of Japanese infantry. By the next day the transition was complete, and General del Valle assumed command of the western zone.

Battling the Weather

Weather would become another enemy. May brought the monsoon season—roads quickly turned to mud and daily life became miserable. The First's sector had few roads, and with the mud they impeded the command's ability to get supplies and food to forward troops. Marine Air would be called into service to parachute food and supplies. The worst fighting between the Japanese and the Americans would take place in May under these harsh conditions. This is where the Japanese made their first concerted stand.

The Shuri Line

The Shuri Line, as it would be known, was a compressed battle-

field. As a crow flies, the distance from Yonabaru on the west coast to the Asa River on the opposite side of the island is barely 9,000 yards! The Japanese used their knowledge of the terrain to turn the area into a nightmare.

At the same time the Sixth was tackling Sugar Loaf, Half Moon and Charlie Hills along with the Asa River, the Old Breed was taking on Awacha, Dakeshi and the Wana Draw. The first six days on the line the First suffered 1,400 casualties. For four weeks they fought without stop. The victors of Peleliu, who thought nothing could be tougher, found a new meaning for the word. From May 11 to May 30, the First Division lost 200 Marines for every 100 yards advanced.

By the end of May as the Tenth Army began to fold the Shuri Line, Ushijima decided to use the poor weather as a cover to remove his troops south to the Kiyamu Peninsula to make their final stand. The First's advance on Shuri Castle was not what they expected. The First Division occupied the well-fortified, tunnel-riddled castle quickly after the Japanese withdrawal. In the process, they stepped on the toes of the Seventy-Seventh Army Division, having crossed into their sector of operation. Adding insult to injury, A Company 1/5's company commander (a southerner) raised the stars and bars over the castle, which could be seen all over southern Okinawa. Del Valle made sure the stars and

continued on next page

1MarDiv on Okinawa

continued from prior page

stripes quickly replaced it, but not before receiving several irate messages from other units. One wonders, however, if Lt. General Buckner did not have a chuckle, considering he was the grandson of a Confederate general.

Linking with the Sixth

June would see the First Division moving south. They would fight at Hill 69 and Kunishi Ridge, which would be remembered for horrendous night fighting as the Japanese became more and more desperate. The Sixth and the First were linked up on the southern end after the Sixth took Oroku Peninsula. The mop up was gruesome, and when the battle was over, members of the Seventh Infantry Division and members of the First would take Hill 89 where General Ushijima committed ceremonial suicide and where the Thirty-Second Army's formal resistance would end.

For survivors of the battle, the victory was far from joyous—too many buddies were no longer there, and they knew that Okinawa was just the beginning of the fight for Japan.

My favorite book about the First Marine Division: *With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa* by Eugene Sledge*

Other Works Used for this Article:

- *Stay off the Skyline* by Laura Lacey*
- *The Old Breed: A History of the First Marine Division in World War II* by George McMillian*
- *The Final Campaign: Marines in the Victory on Okinawa* by Col. Joseph Alexander*
- *Okinawa the Final Battle* by Roy Appleman, James Burns, Russell Gugler and John Stevens

*available on Amazon

Chaplain's Report



With another Reunion coming up, I have been thinking about the "Taps" and how fortunate we are to have so many still around to talk to. We all are sad to see our buddies on the list, but we think of those who never left the Island.

How sad to think of the many Mothers who received their son's dog tags and other personal items. Just two Marines in dress blues at the door informing her of the death of her son. The blue star replaced with a gold one. She might have received his wallet with some faded pictures, but nothing recent. Many sons would have had a picture taken after boot camp, but not after they became battle-hardened Marines.

So we need to make the memorial as special as we can. Be thankful for their sacrifice and take a moment to appreciate how they responded to December 7, 1941.

Plans are going forward for the reunion. Barb and I are busy and have some great things planned.

Remember what the Lord said in Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." So keep the commandments and pray for our country and our friends.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

Special Accommodation Offer for 6th Marines Who Have Never Been or Not Recently Been to a Reunion

Several friends of ours have offered to house a 6th Marine and his family in their home during the reunion. They would like to host a Vet who has never (or not recently) been to a reunion. Some of these friends are retired military personnel who enjoy meeting other veterans. One has two or three bedrooms for a Vet and his family. Others have at least one bedroom.

If you would like to join us at this reunion and have never attended or have not attended for a long time, please call and we will make arrangements for you to stay with one of our friends.

~Harry McKnight
614-866-3456
barbandht6321@aol.com

Ladies Auxiliary Report



I'm sorry to start my message on a sad note. Long-time treasurer of the Ladies Auxiliary, Pauline Roberts, lost her husband Dick

unexpectedly on December 29. We send Pauline and her family our deepest sympathy and prayers of comfort in their loss.

On a happier note, the planning for this year's reunion in Columbus 17 - 23 August is in full swing. At last year's reunion the descendants outnumbered the Vets. It was wonderful to see the descendants get to know each other and develop an interest in carrying on the traditions of their fathers and grandfathers. I am hoping more children and grandchildren of the Vets will accompany "their Marine" to the reunion. Even those whose personal Marine is no longer around are encouraged to come and honor him and his service. It's a great opportunity to make lasting friendships with others who have the same loyalty to the 6th Marine Division and who appreciate their sacrifice.

The Ladies Auxiliary has a long tradition of raising money for the Division and other Marine charities. For years the Ladies Auxiliary had a craft table where items made by the wives were sold. Several years ago Marilyn Essex brought a beautiful framed

tapestry of the Shuri Castle to sell. However, so many people wanted this beautiful piece of art that it was decided to auction it off. Over time the auction replaced the crafts table as the main fundraiser at the reunions. In addition to raising more money, it's a lot of fun!

A great way to support the Division is to donate an item for the auction. We are asking the ladies, men and descendants to consider donating something. Potential auction items include jewelry, books, Marine items, quilts, needlework, wood crafted items, etc. You can make something, buy something, or ask others for donations. Maybe you have a talented friend or relative who would be willing to make something and donate it. Harry and I have a friend who loves to do woodworking, and we plan to ask him to make an item we can put in the auction.

At last year's reunion Pfuong Riles made three wonderful cakes and brought exotic fruits from her garden. Pauline Roberts made her famous fudge. They generously donated these tasty morsels for the hospitality room for all to sample. There are lots of ways to contribute, and we welcome all donations!

We hope to see you in Columbus.

Semper Fi,
Barbara McKnight
Ladies Auxiliary President

A Message to Scholarship Recipients

Over the years many lineal descendants have received Sixth Marine Division College Scholarships. We would love to have you attend the reunion this year in Columbus so we can meet you. Please ask your father or grandfather to bring you with him. Or if your connection to the Sixth Marine Division is busy "Guarding the Gates of Heaven," come with other members of your family.

We need the younger generations to get involved so the Association can grow and keep the memory of the Sixth Division alive. Who better than those who were given the opportunity for an education. We all would love to meet you and learn what you have done with your lives.

~Barbara and Harry McKnight



Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden, Columbus

Missing Minutes

Many of the minutes from past Ladies Auxiliary meetings are missing. If anyone has copies of some of the old minutes, please contact Barbara McKnight at:

6321 Alissa Lane
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 866-3456
barbandht6321@aol.com.

Teaching Students to Honor Our Veterans

by Nancy Barile, daughter of Sam Petriello; from the *Huffington Post*, 11/6/14

My 89 year-old father is a World War II combat veteran and member of the Sixth Marine Division. While raising his children and grandchildren, he sought to instill in us the principles of courage, duty, and integrity -- those values that defined his service.

When my father talks about the '40s and the period surrounding World War II, he explains that it was a time when democracy triumphed over tyranny -- an era when American pride, work ethic, and patriotism were at their finest.

As a teacher in an urban, multi-cultural school, I want to help my students connect with this history and find relevance in the literature they study. I also hope to teach my students what it means to look beyond self-interest by being brave, frugal and loyal.

A few years back, I found myself reflecting on the lessons my dad taught me -- and wondering if I could share this legacy with my students.

But how? My students are living more than 60 years after World War II. Many of them were born in other countries. To them, World War II is a chapter in a history book -- as far away as the Crusades.

Then I read about Honor Flight New England. Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to transport America's WWII veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice. Honor Flight's goal is to help every single veteran in America (who is willing and able

to get on a plane or bus) visit their memorial. And before veterans take off on their flight, Honor Flight asks thankful citizens to come out and greet these veterans to show their appreciation.



I knew this would be the perfect opportunity to bring history alive for my students and for them to do something truly meaningful.

Yet there was a catch. In order for students to greet the veterans, they would have to arrive at the airport by 6 a.m. on a Saturday -- a tough feat for kids this age. But I put the call out, and many students said they wanted to attend. We wrote and decorated signs. However, I still wasn't sure until that morning whether any of my students would actually show up.

Then the morning arrived -- and I was shocked at the number of students (and parents) who came to the airport to show their respect to the WWII veterans on Honor Flight 5. We lined the corridor of Logan Airport's Southwest Terminal and waited as the vets, many in wheelchairs or

walking with canes, made their way to their gate. My students cheered, thanked, and shook hands with the veterans, some of whom cried when they saw the reception they were given.

Every student at Logan Airport that day was profoundly affected by the experience. One student said, "I'm going home to look up more about World War II. I want to know more about this."

Another student, Hailey Norton, remarked, "The veterans inspired me to cherish what I have. They had the ability to smile and be so full of life after having gone through so much."

And Samantha Rosa, also a sophomore, said: "Living in a free country, I often take for granted what soldiers have fought for. Seeing the veterans that served made me think about how fortunate this whole country is for the individual liberties we receive every day!"

My students had an amazing and meaningful experience that day as they showed their appreciation to the WWII veterans. They are now uniquely able to connect to this period in history for the rest of their lives.

This Veterans Day, many of my students will be reflecting on that experience. I hope educators across this country will find a way to help students remember the sacrifices our veterans have made -- and to continue their legacy of honor, integrity, and respect for all.

Nancy won The Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Award in 2013.

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Note: All scheduled events (except the tours) will be held at the Marriott.

Day	Time	Event	Cost Per Person
Monday August 17	1:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Registration Desk	free*
	1:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	
Tuesday August 18	8:00 am - 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room	free*
	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration Desk	free*
	9:30 am - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	
	9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Motts Military Museum Bus Trip	\$15.00
		Motts Museum Entrance fee	\$5.00
	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Executive Board Meeting, Marriott	free*
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Entertainment (TBA), Hospitality Room		
Wednesday August 19	8:00 am - 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room	free*
	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration Desk	free*
	9:30 am - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	
	9:30 am - 2:30 pm	City of Columbus Bus Tour (starting at German Village and ending at Ohio State University) with lunch from menu at restaurant, paid for by individual	\$15.00
	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Entertainment (TBA), Hospitality Room	fee*
Thursday August 20	8:00 am - 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room	free*
	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Registration Desk	free*
	9:30 am - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	
	9:30 am - 3:30 pm	Air Force Museum (Dayton, Ohio) Bus Trip	\$20.00
		Box Lunch and Beverage	\$5.00
	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Entertainment (TBA), Hospitality Room	free*
Friday August 21	8:00 am - 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room	free*
	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Registration Desk	free*
	10:00 am - 11:00 am	Memorial Service, Marriott	
	11:00 am - 11:30 am	Group Photos	
	11:30 am - 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	free*
	12:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Ladies Luncheon and Meeting, Marriott	\$20.00
	7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	General Meeting, Marriott	free*
	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Auction, Marriott	
Saturday August 22	8:00 am - 10:00 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room	free*
	10:00 am - 5:00 pm	Hospitality Room	free*
	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Banquet, Marriott (50/50 winner chosen)—Guest Speaker & Entertainment "Stage Door Canteen"	\$45.00
Sunday August 23	11:00 am	Check out Hoping to see you all again in 2016!	

* There is a \$25.00 Registration Fee that covers the continental breakfast and snacks in the Hospitality Room. This fee is waived for wives of the Sixth Division Veterans.

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

ABOUT THE MARRIOTT

- Six floors with 227 rooms and 20 suites, including wheelchair accessible guest rooms.
- Special reunion rate of \$119 for a deluxe guest room is available two days before and after the reunion. This is a little higher than recent reunions, but it allows us to hold all the events in one location. It's easier for those with limited mobility and eliminates the expense of transportation.
- Free shuttle from/to the airport.
- Free parking.
- Restaurant, bar and Starbucks within the hotel.
- Free shuttle to Easton Town Center with 150+ stores, 45+ dining & food shops, 30 movie screens, and comedy club. (Free parking if you drive.)

If You Fly

- The Columbus Airport has 30 non-stop flights to cities around the country. Southwest Airlines is generally the cheapest.
- The hotel is one mile from the Columbus airport.
- There is a free shuttle from the airport to the hotel. When you are waiting for your luggage to arrive, call the Marriott at 614-475-7551 and tell them you are registered at the hotel and need the shuttle to pick you up in ten minutes. After you get your luggage, go out the doors and across the crosswalk to the shuttle pick up area.

If You Drive

- Two interstates intersect near downtown Columbus: I-70 and I-71.
- Directions:
 - * Follow the signs to the airport.
 - * Take I - 670 to exit 9, then turn onto North Cassady Avenue.
 - * Follow Cassady Avenue to the first traffic light and turn left.
 - * The Marriott Airport hotel is on your right. (Demonye Drive and Cassady Avenue)

ABOUT THE TOURS

Motts Military Museum Tuesday, August 18

We'll take a bus to this unique museum just outside Columbus (about twenty minutes from our hotel) and be back to our hotel in time for lunch on your own.

The museum was established to educate the public on U.S. military history and to honor those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The guides are volunteers who love the museum and are passionate about sharing their knowledge of military history.

We'll get our own special tour of the museum from one of the guides. The museum is not large, so it won't involve too much walking, but it's packed with memorabilia from the Civil War to Desert Storm. There are special exhibits on General Paul Tibbets and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker and of course the Marines.

Bus Tour of Columbus Wednesday, August 19

This is our chance to see the interesting city of Columbus. Our tour begins at the German Village, which is a historic neighborhood settled by German immigrants in the mid-1800's.

Our tour guide, who taught with Harry McKnight for three decades, has lived in the German Village for more than 30 years. He volunteers with the Visitor Center, so he's very knowledgeable.

We'll also have lunch at a restaurant in the German Village. Each person will order from the menu and pay for his own meal. The restaurant has a bar for those interested in mixed drinks.

After lunch, we'll get back on the bus and travel through the center of Columbus to see more interesting sites. We'll end our tour at Ohio State University. Our tour guide is on the admissions board of the university, so he knows his way around. We'll get out of the bus at the football stadium, which in case you did not know, is the home of the national champion Ohio State Buckeyes.

Air Force Museum Thursday, August 20

This tour takes us to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton (about an hour and 15 minutes from our hotel) where we will tour the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. This museum showcases the history of flight from the Wright Brothers to outer space. It houses a vast array of aviation artifacts and displays, including a flight simulator, an "Air Force One" and Glenn Miller memorabilia. While it's not the National Museum of the Marine Corps (certainly not!), this is a superb, first-rate museum that many people say is better than the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum. It's equally entertaining for children and adults.

We'll have three to four hours to tour the museum on our own or with a guide. You can order a box lunch for just \$5 or eat on your own at the museum's cafeteria.



Air Force Museum

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send with your check
NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 to:

Harry McKnight
2015 Reunion
6321 Alissa Lane
Columbus, Ohio 43213

For help completing this form,
please contact Barb or Harry McKnight:

Phone: (614) 866-3456

e-mail: barbandht6321@aol.com

Checks should be made payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn.

Please use the reverse side to calculate the amount due.

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Company: _____ Battalion: _____ Regiment: _____ Serial Number (optional): _____

Lineal Descendant/of Whom: _____

Are you a Marine? _____ Years Served _____

Have you been awarded a Sixth Division Marine Scholarship? _____ When? _____

In case of emergency during the reunion:

Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone(s): _____

____ Attending my 1st Reunion ____ Will help out

____ Will bring auction item (donors will be announced; please label your item)

____ Wheelchair Bound ____ Use Motorized Wheelchair ____ Use Cane or Walker

Special Needs (please specify): _____

Special Dietary Restrictions (please specify): _____

Will be arriving on (date): _____ By what transportation? _____

Please complete the reverse side.

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

REGISTRATION FORM

Activities and Costs

Please fill in the information below to calculate the amount due.
See the schedule on page 13 and tour details on page 14 for more information.

Checks should be made payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn.
Please send this form along with your check to Harry McKnight at the address on the reverse side.

Registration Fee (to support the Hospitality Room)

6th Division Veteran: \$25 (Spouse of veterans are free).....\$ _____
Other Assn. Members and Guests: # attending _____ x \$25.....\$ _____

Tuesday, August 18

Motts Military Museum bus trip: # attending _____ x \$15.....\$ _____
Museum entrance fee: # attending _____ x \$5.....\$ _____

Wednesday, August 19

Bus Tour of Columbus: # attending _____ x \$15.....\$ _____
(Note: each person will order and pay for their own lunch at the restaurant)

Thursday, August 20

Bus tour to Air Force Museum in Dayton: # attending _____ x \$20.....\$ _____
Box lunch and beverage: # needed _____ x \$5.....\$ _____

Friday, August 21

Ladies Luncheon: # attending _____ x \$20.....\$ _____
select one entrée per person: Club Sandwich _____
Turkey Wrap _____
Chicken Caesar Salad _____

Saturday, August 22

Dinner Banquet: # attending _____ x \$45.....\$ _____
Select one entrée per person: Fish (tilapia) _____
Chicken _____
Sirloin _____
Vegetarian _____

Total Due.....\$ _____

Note: If there is any place you would like to tour, please let Harry and Barb know and they will see if enough others are interested to arrange transportation to the site.

Was Iraq Worth It? One Marine's View

by Brian M. Welke from the Wall Street Journal

Was it worth it? That's a question I've been asked no fewer than five times since large portions of Iraq have fallen to the murderous Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. As a Marine veteran who served a tour of duty in Ramadi in 2005-06, I understand that people are genuinely interested in how I now feel about my military service in Iraq.

When that question, which every veteran is inevitably faced with, rears its head, I respond with the same four words, albeit with the first two reversed: It was worth it. In my heart and mind, the answer doesn't matter whether Iraq stands on its own or collapses into a sea of blood and hate. It isn't an answer I have to hold for the future — to wait and see. A sacrifice's worth is not determined by outcomes.

If you asked the same question of someone who tried to help a stranger or loved one but received only rejection, I hope they would respond the same way: It was worth it. A far more painful question, asked of one's self, is: "What if I hadn't tried?"

That doesn't mean rejection doesn't hurt. My heart aches to see a land and a people I grew fond of on the brink of collapse. It hurts all the more because we have been there and because we have sacrificed. But the presence of pain isn't all encompassing; it isn't all there is. There is a far greater feeling that outshines the pain: Pride.

It was in the sands of Ramadi that I learned most people want to be masters of their own fate. When we were providing area security for a weeklong recruitment drive to re-establish the Ramadi police force, the turnout was overwhelming. More than 1,000 applicants stood in line when death approached in the form of a suicide bomber. The blast killed more than 60 and wounded at least 50. On that day, as on many days before and after, Americans and Iraqis were killed by the same enemy. They fell in pursuit of freedom. One for the other's;

one for his own. No matter how things turn out, there was a time when Americans and Iraqis stood united against hate and evil.

How many nations in the course of human events have sacrificed so much to give an unfree people a shot at self-determination? Did Alexander defeat Darius just to give Persia its freedom? Did Caesar conquer Gaul and then say, "Now it's your turn to govern yourself." No other country in history has defeated its enemies only to hand over the reins of government to its native population.

In a region governed by strongmen and factions that imprison or kill each other, there was a time not so long ago when the Iraqi people held their own destiny in their own hands. We, those who fought and sacrificed — and the Iraqis who bravely assisted us — are the ones who placed it there. We join the long line of veterans who fought for another's benefit. We cannot control what people do with a gift, we cannot even be sure they will appreciate it, but that doesn't mean we cannot be proud of the sacrifice that it took to give it.

There will always be naysayers, armchair generals, academics and talking heads who are quick to question everything. But their questions and criticisms will fade along with them. What will remain is that moment in history when a people who had been subjugated by a tyrant's whims were no longer afraid of him. There was justice in an unjust land. All those who served in Iraq, and especially the families of those who fell there, should take pride in the fact that we stood for something larger than ourselves.

So in the end, the question bears its own answer. It was worth it.

Mr. Welke deployed to Iraq in 2005 with "C" Battery, First Battalion, 14th Marines from Waterloo, Iowa. He lives in Washington, D.C.

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn Quantico Center, Dumfries, Virginia ~ Friday, October 10, 2014

President Sam Petriello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

President Petriello appointed Dick Roberts and David Titus as Sergeant at Arms.

Roll Call

Officers:

Secretary Lisa Benedetti took the roll call:

President—Sam Petriello	Present
President Elect—Connie Houseweart	Present
Secretary—Lisa Benedetti	Present
Treasurer—Sharon Woodhouse	Present
Chaplain—Harry McKnight	Present
Editor—Carroll McGowan	Present
Judge Advocate—Bob McGowan	Present
Membership Chairman—Jim White	Absent and excused
Public Relations Officer	Vacant
Service Officer—Dick Roberts	Present
Immediate Past President— Connie Houseweart	Present
Past President—Sam Petriello	Present

Unit Directors:

4 th Marines—George Scott	Absent
15 th Marines—Ozzie Aasland	Present
22 nd Marines—Bob Russell	Absent
29 th Marines—Neil McCallum	Present
6 th Motor Transportation Battalion	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion—Jack Rice	Absent
6 th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion—Sal Mistretta	Absent
6 th Pioneer Battalion—Marvin Gromley	Present
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6 th Recon Co.—Joe Singleton	Absent
6 th JASCO—Dick Roberts	Present
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

Secretary Benedetti declared a quorum was in attendance (at least 30 members).

Proof of Meeting Notice:

President Petriello 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 August 16, 2013:

Dick Whitaker, seconded by Marvin Gromley, moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2013 Annual Meeting as published in the winter issue of the Striking Sixth. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

President Sam Petriello: President Petriello thanked President Elect Connie Houseweart for filling in for him while he had some medical issues. God Bless all for attending.

President Elect – Connie Houseweart: Connie stated there is a new website as the previous webmaster had to step down. The current website is still a work in progress, but looks very good.

Secretary Lisa Benedetti: The Annual Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2013 will be signed and filed now that they have been approved.

Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse: The report covered the period of August 16, 2013 to August 31, 2014 (attached). The balance for total assets was \$41,843.46, which does not include many of the expenses for the reunion yet.

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

Chaplain Harry McKnight: Chaplain McKnight thanked everyone who helped him to write letters to the families of deceased members. It is helpful for him to know of people who are now in nursing homes also, so he can correspond with them. There are nine grave markers left. If someone needs one, please ask him for one.

Editor Carroll McGowan: Carroll stated her goal for the editions of the newsletter is to have one published in March, July and November of each year. The next edition will be sent the end of November.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan: Bob reported Sam Petriello gave him copies of a hand signed document by President Harry Truman to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. There are also copies of a letter from Victor David Hanson from 2013, which is a tribute letter to the 6th Division. Sam added that President Truman's private papers were released after so many years.

Membership Chairman Jim White: Connie reported for Jim White. Jim would like to continue as Membership Chairman and Flo Dornan as Membership Manager. Connie reviewed the membership report (attached). Total membership is 2058 members. Connie read the duties of the Membership Manager on behalf of Flo Dornan, so everyone would know what the job entails (attached). Lisa added that it is important for anyone who knows of the death of a member to let Flo know, as she is not getting a lot of the information. The records would then be kept up to date.

Public Relations - Vacant: No report. President Petriello stated that Larry Walker was elected to the position last year, but unfortunately he passed away earlier this year, so it is now vacant.

Sharon Woodhouse reported that on October 6, 2014, she and her

continued on next page

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

husband Greg, Connie and David Hilner and Jim Monbeck participated in a ceremony at Quantico National Cemetery for the group Missing in America Project. They locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American Veterans with the help of various organizations to provide honor and respect for those forgotten people who have served their country and to give them a final resting place. Her group represented three Marines who no longer had family alive. They were Major George Johnston Pugh – WWII, Corporal Herbert Franklin Taylor – WWII, Private Henry Swan Potete, Jr. – WWII. They felt fortunate to be a part of this beautiful ceremony. President Petriello thanked them on behalf of the Association. These men were comrades in arms.

Bob McGowan reported he, Bob Mitchell, Bill Mascow, Andy Horvath, Sam Petriello and Andy Sinatra of the Association attended a ceremony in Little Ferry, New Jersey on October 4, 2014 honoring Eddie Couchon, Jr. of the 22nd Marines. Eddie was killed in combat on May 10, 1945. A distant relative, Dave Pellatier arranged for this ceremony where there were all branches of the military represented, as well as many politicians, citizens and the news media. Andy Sinatra gave a speech as he knew Eddie Couchon well. Medals were given to Eddie's family, and it was an honor to be there. Sam added it was a beautiful ceremony and people stood and applauded the 6th Division members in attendance for their service.

Service Officer Dick Roberts: Dick stated his biggest duty is supposed to be to hand out grave markers for those who may need them, but that is being done by someone else. He did receive five or six calls from members who were unable to attend this reunion.

Immediate Past President Connie Houseweart: No report.

Past President Sam Petriello: Sam stated we had a great reunion last year and a great one this year. He thanked the committee.

UNIT DIRECTORS' REPORTS: No report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Nominations Committee: The Nominating Committee was made up of Connie Houseweart, and Tiffany Woodhouse. Connie presented the slate of officers for 2014-15 as follows:

President	Connie Houseweart
President Elect	
Secretary	Lisa Benedetti
Treasurer	Sharon Woodhouse
Chaplain	Harry McKnight
Editor	Carroll McGowan
Judge Advocate	Bob McGowan
Membership Chairman	Jim White
Public Relations Officer	Dan Accrocco
Service Officer	Dick Roberts

Connie stated that there is a son, Dan Accrocco, who has attended several reunions whom has been nominated as the Public Relations Officer.

Barb McKnight stated that she was elected to be on the Nominat-

ing Committee, but did not know of the meeting. She thought of Jim Monbeck, for the Public Relations Officer and thought he would be very good. Connie stated nominations would also be taken from the floor when the elections are held.

2014 Reunion: Sharon Woodhouse reported that there are 22 veterans and 79 guests for a total of 101 people here this year.

Membership: Connie Houseweart stated the Board of Directors approved the Membership Manager's contract for 2015. The amount will be reduced to \$250 per month at the request of the Membership Manager. A reminder that subscriptions to the newsletter are separate from membership dues and are due at the end of December.

Bylaws Committee: Bob McGowan had no report.

Scholarship Committee: Bob McGowan reported that nine scholarships were awarded. Twelve applications were submitted, but three were not complete. The names will be published in the next newsletter. Individual student profiles are available for review. These scholarships only extend to grandchildren, not great grandchildren of the WWII Marines. He can be contacted if there are any questions he can address with the foundation.

Finance Committee: Connie Houseweart reported the committee met October 8, 2014 pursuant to Article X (9) of the Bylaws of the Association. The books were reviewed and the committee finds that the financial records and reports are in order.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTIONS:

President Petriello stated that Connie Houseweart is the incoming President and does an outstanding job. He will nominate her to be the President Elect also. President Petriello asked before the vote on each position, if anyone else was interested in any of the positions, as nominations could be taken from the floor.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for President Elect Connie Houseweart.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for Secretary Lisa Benedetti.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for Chaplain Harry McKnight.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for Editor Carroll McGowan.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for Judge Advocate Bob McGowan.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for Membership Chairman Jim White.

The slate presented Dan Accrocco as Public Relations Officer. Dan was not present.

Barb McKnight, seconded by Connie Houseweart, nominated

continued on next page

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Jim Monbeck as Public Relations Officer. Jim accepted. Jim does a lot for the Association. A unanimous vote was cast for Jim Monbeck as Public Relations Officer.

Seeing none, a unanimous vote was cast for Service Officer Dick Roberts.

President Petriello reviewed the current unit directors and they were elected as follows:

Unit Directors Elected:

4 th Marines	George Scott
15 th Marines	Ozzie Aasland
22 nd Marines	Bob Russell
29 th Marines	Neil McCallum
6 th Motor Transportation Battalion	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion	David Titus
6 th Engineering	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta
6 th Pioneer Battalion	Marvin Gromley
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6 th Recon Co.	Joe Singleton
6 th JASCO	Dick Roberts
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

President Petriello asked for nominations of two members at large to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2015.

Harry McKnight, seconded by Marvin Gromley, nominated Tiffany Woodhouse and Julie Koonce to be on the Nominating Committee and both accepted. All in favor, motion carried.

Sam Petriello, seconded by Bob McGowan, moved to approve David Pelletier as an Honorary Member. Bob stated Dave organized the event in New Jersey and fully supports the 6th Marine Division Association. All in favor, *motion carried.*

Connie Houseweart reported that a young man from Puerto Rico donated a uniform of the 6th Marine Division to the Association. He was thankful to the men who fought and asked Connie to thank them for allowing him to become a United States citizen. The uniform has been on display at the reunion.

Presentations for Reunion 2015:

Sharon Woodhouse stated the Holiday Inn here in Quantico has again offered a rate of \$99.00 for the last week of September. She had also distributed a questionnaire during this reunion to see what types of activities the group is interested in. Nothing has been set up yet.

Harry McKnight stated it is time for a change. He and Barb are proposing Columbus, Ohio. The Airport Marriott Hotel is adjacent to the Easton Town Center. There are many restaurants and shops there. There is a free shuttle to the shopping area and to the airport as well as free parking at the hotel. All events can be held at the hotel, as there are enough rooms to accommodate the various venues needed. The cost is \$119 per room and it will be

first class. The time would be mid to late August. There is a lot to do in the Columbus area and there is a major airport there.

Pam Bloustine, a retired Marine, stated she was asked to host a reunion in Oklahoma City again. It was sort of short notice so she did not have any details. She and Joan Willauer and a committee hosted it in 2008. She has already volunteered to help Barb and Harry McKnight in Columbus, if they are awarded the reunion next year. The reunion in Oklahoma City may actually be in Norman and would be held in July or August. She believes she can get a room rate of around \$89.00. It is centrally located. However, she is totally committed to Columbus if that is the wish of the membership and maybe Oklahoma could be done in 2016.

Sam Petriello stated that the proposal for Quantico had been withdrawn.

A show of hands was taken for each proposal and Columbus (24) was chosen as the 2015 Reunion site over Oklahoma City (12).

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan inducted the officers for 2015.

President Petriello stated it was a pleasure to serve as president again.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the benediction.

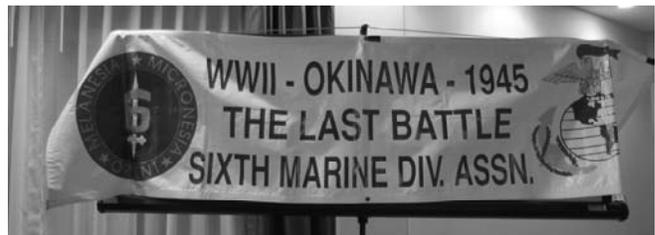
Adjournment 8:16 p.m.

Submitted by,
Lisa Benedetti
Secretary

Attachment 1: Financial Report by Sharon Woodhouse

**Sixth Marine Division Association
Financial Statement 2013-14**

Beginning Balance August 16, 2013	\$53,855.01
Revenue	13,917.50
Memberships, dues, 2013 reunion, 2014 reunion	
Expenses	25,929.05
Printing of newsletters	4,361.72
Membership Manager	3,900.00
2013 Reunion	14,979.48
2014 Reunion	2,687.85
Ending Balance August 31, 2014	\$41,843.46



continued on next page

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Attachment 2: Membership Manager's 2014 Report

September 23, 2014

To: Jim White, Membership Chairman

From: Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

After removing deceased members, those we have lost and those who have requested to be dropped, we have 2,058 names on the roster. The following is based on those 2,058 names as of September 23, 2014:

Membership:

Regular Life Members	1,230
Regular Annual—Current*	47
Associate Life Members	586
Associate Annual—Current*	12
Associate LD Life Members	116
Associate LD Annual—Current*	53
Organizations	6
Honorary Members	8
Total Membership	2,058

*Current—Dues paid for 2012 to 2018

There are a total of 434 members whose newsletters have been returned by the USPS without a new or forwarding address and those who asked to be dropped from the membership still remains at 46. There are 434 widows who are associate members and 47 are up-to-date on their newsletter subscriptions for 2014 and beyond.

Newsletter Subscriptions:

The following are the numbers of currently paid subscribers to the newsletter as of September 23, 2014:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015-24</u>
Regular Members	78	136	127
Associate Members	30	19	28
Associate LD Members	42	31	16

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Dornan
Membership Manager

Cc: Connie Houseweart
Lisa Benedetti



Spring 2015

Attachment 3: Membership Manager's Contract for 2015

September 15, 2014

To: Connie Houseweart, President-Elect
Sam Petriello, President
Lisa Benedetti, Secretary
Jim White, Membership Chairman
Members of the Sixth Marine Division Assn.

From: Florence R. Dornan
704 Cooper Court
Arlington, TX 76011-5550
(817) 275-1552
Sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

I am willing to continue another year at the pleasure of the incoming president and the Sixth Marine Division Assn. 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. 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 2014-2015 will be \$250 per month, a reduction of \$50 per month as the membership becomes smaller, payable the first of each month, beginning January 1, 2015. 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

Dick Roberts: Marine, Athlete, Scoutmaster and Terrific Guy



Pauline, Dick & John Roberts; 2014 Reunion

We are sad to report that Richard “Dick” Roberts passed away on December 29, 2014 in Danville, PA. He is survived by his wife, Pauline, son, John, and three grandchildren.

Dick was born March 17, 1927, in Albany, N.Y. He excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track as a youth. He worked on the ponds and lakes in New York and Vermont cutting ice to be stored for delivery to homes. He also ran trap lines and worked on farms. During his senior year of high school, Dick played for the Granville semi-pro football team. On March 31, 1943, at age 16, he quit school to join the Marine Corps. During World War II, he fought on Bougainville and participated in the invasions of Emmerau, Guam, and Okinawa. A member of a JASCO team that included two code talkers, they directed Navy and artillery gunfire and air strikes against the Japanese. On Guam, Dick received his first Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for bravery when he saved a fellow Marine from sniper fire. He received Navy Commendation for Valor after being wounded twice on Okinawa during the second invasion — the first from shrapnel, and the second from a jeep hitting a land mine. He was saved by the radio he was sitting on. Dick served in Japan and then China at the end of World War II.

Dick returned stateside to the Scotia, NY Supply Depot and served as an honor escort for

Marines returned to the United States for reburial. While there, he played semi-pro football for the Scotia Packers (farm team of the Green Bay Packers). One of his teammates was Heisman winner, Leon Hart.

In 1948, Dick was on temporary assignment in Philadelphia to perform more honor escorts when he brought the body of PFC Valentine Kmiecinski to Danville for reburial. It was there he met PFC Kmiecinski’s sister, Pauline. Dick and Pauline were married on April 28, 1951.

Dick was in the Marine Corps for 21 years, serving at various bases and fighting in Korea in 1954. While serving at Quantico, he began to shoot skeet. After being transferred to Camp LeJeune, NC, he was placed on the Marine Corps team. He won numerous individual and team championships and was invited to try out for the Olympic Skeet Team in 1964. Instead, he chose to retire from the Marine Corps. Moving to Danville, he became the first security and safety officer at Geisinger Medical Center where he retired 25 years later.

Dick became a Scoutmaster, developed an Explorer Post, and served on numerous committees in the Columbia-Montour Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was awarded the Silver Beaver by the Boy Scouts of America and the St. George Emblem by the Diocese of Harrisburg for his

service in Scouting. He attended and worked at many national and world jamborees. He was proud of the 59 boys he helped climb to the rank of Eagle Scout and who earned their religious medals while in the troop.

Dick enjoyed woodworking, Penn State football, and high school sports. He served as coach and mechanic for his son when he raced motocross. He was a member of the Marine Corps League, pedigree member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, member of the Goodwill Hose Company as a firefighter, life member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Purple Heart Association, the China Marine Association, and the Sixth Marine Division Association, where he served as Service Officer and Unit Director. Dick and Pauline attended the 6MarDiv reunions each year, the past one in the company of their son, John. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.



Dick Roberts, 2012 Reunion

Striking Sixth



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.

COGNITO, Nicholas	6 th Mar Div-HQ-HQ	Unknown
GEHRET, Irvin E.	29 th Mar-2-D	07/00/2014
KESSLER, Anita	Wife of Glen Kessler	07/04/2014
LEISEY, Mary Helen	Wife of Alvin Leisey	09/28/2014
MANTE, Andrew C.	4 th Mar-3-K	02/21/2014
McGUIGAN, James (Jim) A.	29 th Mar-3-G	02/25/2015
NICHOLS-KLOCKE, Sue	Wife of Alfred Klocke	09/07/2014
PISTOLE, Charles E.	6 th Jasco	08/19/2014
RICE, Donald N.	6 th Recon	02/11/2015
RICE, John (Jack) W.	6 th Medical Bn-C	02/20/2015
ROBERTS, Richard (Dick)	6th JASCO	12/29/2014
RUSSELL, Robert	22 nd Mar-1-B	10/26/2014
SPITALE, Dominic J.	29 th Mar-Wpns	11/28/2014
WETZEL, Frank	22 nd Mar-3-HQ	01/03/2015
WHITE, Warren	6 th Pioneer Bn-A	12/03/2013

Remembering Happy Times with Good Friends



Jim McGuigan with Russell Scherck and grandson Rick Descano, 2013 Reunion (left); with daughter, Patty Payne, 2014 Reunion (above)

It is foolish and wrong to mourn the man who died.

Rather we should thank God that such men lived.

~George Patton



Jack Rice with wife Ray and Minnie Belle Sanner, 2013 Reunion (above)

Bob Russell with Tiffany Woodhouse, wife Janet, and Sam Petriello, 2013 Reunion (right); with Janet, 2012 Reunion (far right)



Message from the Membership Manager



Ah, spring is almost here and it hasn't been a bad winter at all here in Texas UNTIL this past week. We had our winter all in one week – sleet, frozen rain, and snow with temperatures in the 20's. The 2 inches of snow is still out there, as is the freezing rain, but next week will be better. I chastise myself because I grew up in New England (Vermont and Massachusetts) and to see what they have had to contend with this year, I should be

ashamed to even complain. I remember those days but that was fun then!

Once again the Taps list is short and I feel certain there are some members who are not getting memorialized and their Marine buddies are not aware they have passed. Please, if you know of someone who is no longer with us, you can call me (leave a message if I am not home and I will return the call), or mail or email me. My phone number and email address are below.

As always I feel the need to remind members to send a check for their newsletter subscription

especially since the paid numbers for 2015 have fallen. If someone complains to you that they didn't get their newsletter, tell them to look at the label on their last newsletter and they will find the status of their membership dues and the newsletter – just follow the arrows. Newsletters are sent only to those who are paid for the current year.

Respectfully submitted,
 Flo Dornan
 Membership Manager
 817-275-1552
sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

From the Editor



I can report that Harry and Barb McKnight have been hard at work planning a wonderful reunion for 2015. Only those who have hosted

reunions or similar events can appreciate how much time and effort goes into hosting an event like this.

I look forward to getting together in Columbus in August, and I hope to see many of you there. At the same time, I am saddened that several Marines who I have met in past reunions have passed away and will not be with us in this year. Fortunately, many happy memories remain.

~Carroll McGowan
 chm1423@aol.com, 412-341-9219

MEMBERSHIP STATUS @ February 28, 2015

Regular Members	1,199
Associate Members	592
Lineal Descendants	158
Honorary Members	8
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP (dues paid for 2014-2024)	1,957

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS @ February 28, 2015

Paid for 2014	136
Paid for 2015	114
Paid for 2016-2024	110
Honorary Members	8



Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

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: \$ _____

Memorial Medallion Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

General Operating Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

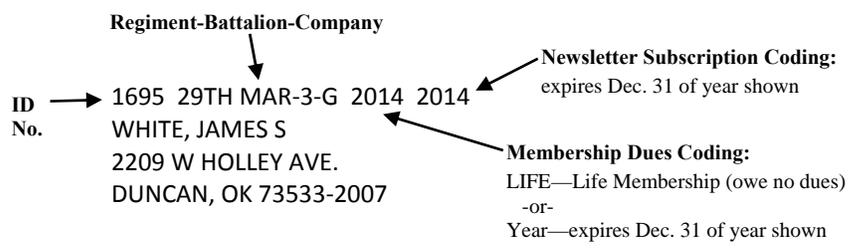
Make check payable to The Sixth Marine Division Association Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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.



Things To Do

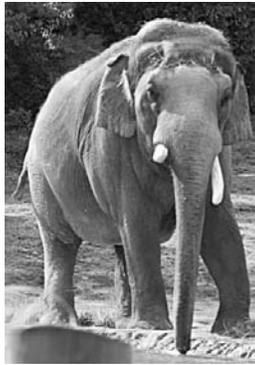


Stroll Around the Topiary Park

- 7-acre park in downtown Columbus
- Famous for topiary interpretation of Georges Seurat's painting, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Isle of La Grande Jatte*

Discover the Animals at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

- Ranked best zoo in the nation by USA Travel Guide
- Transformed into a world-class zoo by Jack Hanna



Splash Down at Zoombezi Bay Water Park

- Adjacent to the Zoo
- 17 water slides, wave pool, action river, lazy river, private cabanas, and kiddie play pool

Pay Tribute to Firefighters at the Central Ohio Fire Museum and Learning Center

- Located downtown in a restored 1908 Columbus Engine House
- History of firefighting since 1850's



Tour the Ohio Statehouse

- One of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the country
- Completed 1861
- Beautiful interior filled with artworks and Ohio history



Explore the Ohio History Center and Ohio Village

- Museum of Ohio's natural history and archaeological heritage
- Restored Ohio village of the 1860's

Stop and Smell the Roses at the Columbus Park of Roses

- One of the largest public gardens in the U.S.
- More than 12,000 roses and 400 varieties

Expand Your Mind at COSI — Center of Science and Industry

- Ranked #1 science center in the country by Parents Magazine
- Newly renovated planetarium
- Interactive exhibits and play center

So Much More To See...

- **Columbus Museum of Art** — right downtown with interactive section for children
- **Arena District** — popular area with restaurants, bars and concerts
- **Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery** — burial site of Confederate POWs
- **Short North District** — galleries, shops and pubs
- **Ohio State University** — one of the largest universities in the U.S. and home of the Buckeyes

Note: You'll receive information on numerous activities plus a list of recommended night spots at the reunion.

In Columbus

Visit the German Village

- Historic neighborhood settled by German immigrants in the mid-1800's
- Model of urban preservation and revitalization located just south of downtown
- Retail shops, art galleries, coffee shops, bakeries, restaurants and pubs
- Three beautiful parks



Take in a Minor League Baseball or Soccer Game



- **Columbus Clippers Baseball**
Monday 8/17 & Tuesday 8/18
@7:05 pm vs. Charlotte Knights
at beautiful Huntington Park in
the Arena District



- **Columbus Crew Soccer**
Wednesday 8/19 @ 7:30 pm
vs. New York City Football Club
in Crew Stadium, the first soccer
specific stadium in the U.S.



Check out the Motorcycle Hall of Fame Museum

Cycles from the early 1900s to today



Tour the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden

- Indoor & outdoor gardens & exhibits
- Blooms & Butterflies
- Bonsai Show
- Rainforest Biome
- Chihuly glass artworks

Presents some challenges for mobility impaired



Shop and Eat at the Easton Town Center

- Contemporary indoor/outdoor town center
- 150+ national and regional stores
- 50+ casual restaurants and food stores
- 30 movie screens
- Adult comedy club with dinner and drinks
- Free shuttle from our hotel



Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011

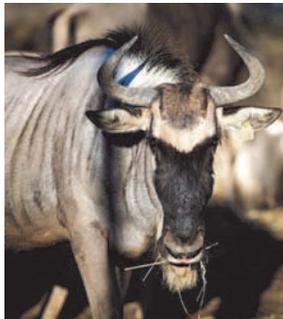


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Striking Sixth Newsletter

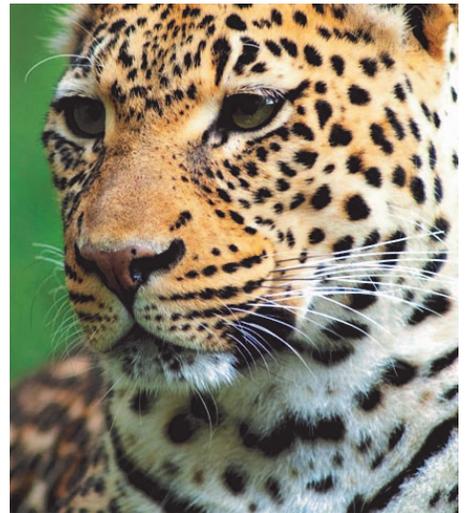
Spring 2015

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Columbus,
Ohio
August 17-23

2015
6MarDiv
Reunion



Enjoy the
sites of
Columbus,
including the
top ranked
Columbus Zoo
and Aquarium

