

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 49 No. 3

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Fall 2024



# Let's Get Together!

**SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 3, 2025 ~ QUANTICO, VIRGINIA**

We heard you! You want to get together. So do we!

Mark your calendars because we have a date — September 30-October 3, 2025, and we have a hotel — the Comfort Inn Near Quantico Main Gate North. We selected this hotel because we got a great room rate — \$96 plus tax — and it's only four miles from the National Museum of the Marine Corps. We also loved that it has a free hot breakfast and a hospitality room so we have a place to gather.

We are still working on the details, but we are tentatively planning to include a trip to the museum and dinner at a restaurant. We expect to spend most of our time socializing and relaxing at the hotel.

Please see pages 2-3 for more details. Hope you can come!

### Inside This Issue:

Quantico Get Together.....	2-3
1971 Reunion Program.....	4
VMI Award Winner.....	5
Officer and Unit Director Listing.....	6
Editor's Note .....	7
Board Meeting Report.....	7
Donations.....	7
Mail Call.....	8-12
TAPS.....	13
Poem: The Honor, Deferred.....	14-15
Kinugawa Maru.....	15

# Let's Get Together!

## OUR HOTEL: COMFORT INN NEAR QUANTICO MAIN GATE NORTH



16931 Old Stage Road, Dumfries, VA 22025  
(703) 445-8070

### Make your reservation ASAP!

To get the special \$96\* room rate, use this link:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/EK40S2>

Or call (703) 445-8070 and ask to book under the Sixth Marine Division.

Free cancellation until 4:00 pm on 9/28/25.

**Please note there are only four accessible rooms.**

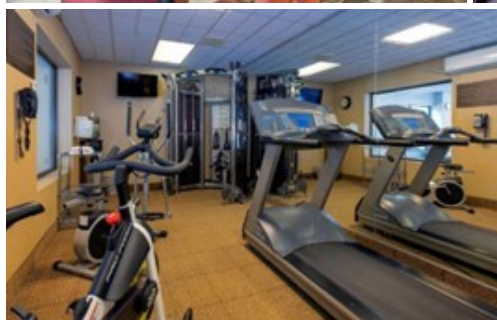
*\*The room rate including tax is \$109.44. It is available 2 days before September 30 and 2 days after October 2.*



Choose a room with 2 Queen beds or 1 King bed. Rooms are 3100 square feet.

### Amenities

- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Tea/coffee maker
- Free WIFI in all areas
- TV with cable channels
- Free hot breakfast 6am-9am
- Indoor pool & hot tub
- Fitness room
- Free parking
- Non-smoking
- 24-hour front desk
- Several restaurants within walking distance
- Check in from 4:00 pm
- Check out until 12 noon



breakfast area, fitness room and pool

# Let's Get Together!

## OUR PLANS SO FAR

### How To Get There

Distance from DC Airports:

Reagan Washington National Airport —  
30 miles, allow at least one hour

Dulles International Airport —  
35 miles, allow at least one hour

Please note the hotel does not have a shuttle.  
We suggest renting a car or using Uber or Lyft.

### Tentative Itinerary

Nothing is set in stone, but we are thinking about two main activities.

**Museum Visit** — We will devote one of our full days to visiting the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Please note we do not have the funds to provide bus transportation, so you will be responsible for getting to the museum on your own. We feel certain that those without a car will be able to find a ride with one of the other attendees. We are a friendly and helpful bunch! And of course, there is always Uber and Lyft.

**Group Dinner** — We are tentatively planning a dinner for the last night. You will be responsible for your own tab. At least that is how we are envisioning it. Again, you will need to get there on your own.

We may have other things in store. Nothing major, but perhaps we will get someone from the museum to do a presentation for us at the hotel. We'll be looking into things like that over the next few months.

Mainly, we just want to get together and enjoy each other's company.

**Look for more information in the Spring and Summer Striking Sixth Newsletters and on our Facebook page.**

### Special Assistance for Sixth Division Marines, Wives and Widows

We want you to come! We promise to cover your transportation to and from the airport and to any activities you choose to attend. Please call Sharon Woodhouse at (503) 799-4455 and let her know you are coming.

Due to the challenging logistics, we request that you only ask for our assistance if you are not traveling with younger family members.

National Museum of the Marine Corps



### QUESTIONS???

If you have any questions about our get together, please call Sharon Woodhouse (503) 799-4455

# First Reunion Program ~ 1971

We thank Lisa Benedetti for sending us the program from the very first Sixth Marine Division Reunion, which was held in Atlantic City in 1971.

The reunion lasted three days and included a reception, a film about the Division on Okinawa, a

business meeting and concurrent presentation on interior design for the ladies, a banquet, and a memorial service.

The program featured a heartfelt letter from General Shepherd, reprinted below.

Greetings to all hands from your Division Commander.

I regret that I am unable to join with you, my former Comrades-in-Arms in the Sixth Marine Division at your first reunion at Atlantic City.

The 89 days of grueling combat on Okinawa in which we participated together are still fresh in my memory as I am sure they are in yours. The achievements of our division from that bright Easter morn when we landed on red and green beaches until the 22d Marines planted the same flag on the southern tip of Okinawa that they had raised on the northern most point of the island, form many stirring pages in the illustrious history of the Marine Corps.

The seizure of Mount Yaetaka, the crossing of the Asakawa, the bloody conflict for Sugar Loaf Hill and the capture of Ara Saki are battles with which you are all familiar.

The successful seizure of Sugar Loaf Hill which formed the western anchor of the Naha-Shuri Conical Hill defense line extending across the narrow waist of Okinawa, contributed materially to the withdrawal of the 32d Japanese Army to the southern part of the island where the enemy was finally defeated by our capture of Ara Saki.

I have always claimed that the loss of Okinawa strongly influenced the Japanese Emperor to sue for peace, bringing the war to a victorious conclusion.

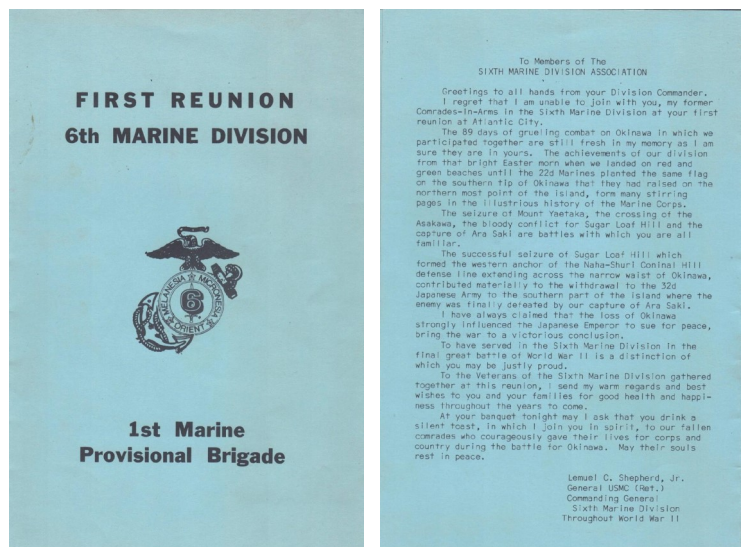
To have served in the Sixth Marine Division in the final great battle of World War II is a distinction of which you may be justly proud.

To the Veterans of the Sixth Marine Division gathered together at this reunion, I send my warm regards and best wishes to you and your families for

good health and happiness throughout the years to come.

At your banquet tonight may I ask that you drink a silent toast, in which I join you in spirit, to our fallen comrades who courageously gave their lives for corps and country during the battle for Okinawa. May their souls rest in peace.

Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.  
General USMC (Ret.)



THE DENNIS HOTEL-MOTEL  
ON THE BOARDWALK - ATLANTIC CITY - NEW JERSEY  
SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19, 1971

REUNION SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER		
12:00 Noon - 9:00 PM	REGISTRATION	LOWER LOBBY
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	FILM OF 6TH MAR DIV ON OKINAWA	GARDEN LOUNGE
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	RECEPTION (Cash & carry bar)	CRYSTAL ROOM
SATURDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER		
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon	REGISTRATION	LOWER LOBBY
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	BUSINESS MEETING ASSOC.	GARDEN LOUNGE
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	FOR THE LADIES, RECEPTION	OZONE ROOM
	MRS. OSCILLE T. HARGRAVE INTERIOR DESIGNER-LECTURER ON OKINAWA	OAK ROOM
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	FILM OF 6TH MAR DIV ON OKINAWA	CRYSTAL ROOM
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	RECEPTION (Cash & carry bar)	CRYSTAL ROOM
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM	DINNER, INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS - ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCE	CRYSTAL ROOM
SUNDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER		
10:00 AM	MEMORIAL SERVICES (Inclement weather)	ON THE GREEN GARDEN LOUNGE
FAREWELL:		

# For VMI Award Winner, J. Addison Hagan V, VMI and the Marine Corps Are a Family Tradition

*Each year VMI awards one scholarship and two awards to Cadets who are pursuing a Marine Corps Commission through VMI's Naval ROTC program. This year, all three Cadets also received a copy of The Mosquito Bowl by Buzz Bissinger.*

*Addison Hagan V received a wooden footlocker containing books.*

*The awards and scholarship were funded by the Sixth Marine Division Association in honor of the Division's Commanding General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. The Mosquito Bowl books were donated by General Shepherd's granddaughter, Sallie Garrett Shepherd. Sallie is the Association's liaison with VMI, and we thank her for reaching out to this year's awardees.*

I am so honored and grateful to have received this award. Here is a little about me. First and foremost, I am a Christian. I grew up in Richmond, VA. On May 15, 2024, I was commissioned as a 2ndLt in the Marine Corps. On May 16, I graduated with my Brother Rats from VMI. While at VMI, I studied Civil Engineering. I am also a member of the Beta Commission of Kappa Alpha Order. This past summer I worked as a sailing instructor at a boys' summer camp that I went to in my youth as I waited to go to The Basic School in October. The camp is called "Camp Sea Gull," and it happens to be across the river from MCAS Cherry Point.

My full name is Joseph Addison Hagan V. The four Joseph Addison Hagans before me each went to VMI and served in the Marine Corps.

My great-great grandfather, LtCol J. Addison Hagan Sr., attended VMI with the class of 1915 and graduated in 1916. He would have had about three years of overlap with General Shepherd at VMI. He was commissioned into the Marine Corps and went on to serve in Belleau Wood where he was wounded at Chateau Thierry and earned a Distinguished Service Cross. During World War II, he



Addison Hagan V, center, at his graduation from VMI, along with his grandfather, father, and siblings who just completed their first year at VMI

served on Adm. Halsey's court martial staff. Interestingly, my father has letters written between my great-great-grandfather and Gen Sheppard.

My great-grandfather, Maj J. Addison Hagan Jr., landed on Guam with the first landing of artillery in World War II, and he also

served stateside during the Korean War.

My Grandfather, Capt J. Addison Hagan III served as an infantry officer in the Vietnam War and earned a Bronze Star with a "V" for valor.

My father, LCpl J. Addison Hagan IV (who gave me my first salute), served in the reserves during peacetime.

Obviously, a big reason for my choosing to attend VMI and pursue a commission in the Marine Corps is my family's history. My father taught me the seriousness of VMI's honor code, and that honor system grew to be a large part of the reason I chose VMI as well. I have always wanted to serve in the Marines. Its standards, culture, people, camaraderie, and uniforms made me want to be a part of it.

Very Respectfully,  
J. Addison Hagan V



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4th Marines	Vacant
15th Marines	Vacant
22nd Marines	Vacant
29th Marines	Neal McCallum
6th Motor Trans Battalion	Vacant
6th Medical Battalion	Vacant
6th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6th Tank Battalion	Vacant
6th Pioneer Battalion	Vacant
6th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6th Recon Company	Vacant
6th JASCO	Vacant
1st Amphibs	Vacant

## Striking Sixth Newsletter

This newsletter is an official publication of the Sixth Marine Division Association and is published three times each year:

March, July and November.

**Subscriptions are \$10 per calendar year.**

**Subscription checks, address changes, donations and death notices should be mailed or emailed to:**

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**Please make checks payable to:  
Sixth Marine Division Assn.**

For more information, please contact Patty:

(410) 978-2979 or  
pjpayne1984@verizon.net

## Editor's Note



I would like to commend and thank our President, Connie Houseweart, for doing the leg-

work for our 2025 get together. She's been the driving force to make it happen. I know it's been a labor of love. No one enjoys seeing old friends and welcoming new people into the Sixth Marine Division family more than Connie.

The entire Board of Directors is behind her, and we look forward to hosting a scaled-down version of our much loved reunions. Our funds are limited, so we have to keep it simple, but all we really want to do is gather together with old and new friends. We look forward to seeing everyone who can come!

Please consider joining us. You will be warmly welcomed and meet lots of people who love and admire the Marines of the Sixth Division. And if you've never been to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, now is your chance. It's magnificent!

Hope to see you all!

~ Carroll McGowan



**We wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving,  
Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!**

## Board of Directors Annual Meeting

*As a reminder, the Board of Directors meets annually via conference call to manage the Association. Following is a summary of the discussion on September 12, 2024:*

After approving the minutes of the 2023 annual meeting, the Board discussed several administrative topics, including preservation of the Association's archives, membership records, and our financial position. The Association has sufficient funds to produce the newsletter and maintain the website for several more years. (Please note: We have elected to stop publishing our bank balance in the newsletter because it was resulting in our officers getting unwanted marketing solicitations.)

Facebook has become one of our main ways of communicating with people interested in the Sixth Marine Division. We discussed the possibility of opening our page up to anyone who wants to post, but we decided to keep posting in the hands of four administrators to eliminate the risk of inappropriate posts.

We spent most of the meeting discussing the feasibility of holding a get together in 2025, which is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa and the 250th anniversary of the Marine Corps. Many members of the Association and individuals sending messages on Facebook have expressed an interest in getting together. The board was enthusiastic about the idea, but concerned about the challenge of planning a gathering with a much smaller bank balance.

Ultimately, the Board decided that the Quantico area would be the ideal location since we know the area and the National Museum of the Marine Corps would make a great activity. We settled on a fall date to give us sufficient time to get the word out. President Houseweart said she would make some phone calls and come back to the board with a proposal.

Note: The Board had two additional meetings to firm up plans for the get together. The results of those meetings are in this newsletter (pages 1-3).



## Donations — Thank You!

### General Operating Fund

Lawrence Paleno

Leo Sniger

Rick Willauer

# MAIL CALL



## Lacey R. Kessler (22<sup>nd</sup> Mar-1-A)

My father, Lacey R. Kessler was a PFC in A company of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines. I have his service records and the letters he sent to my mom. We also have his purple heart, some equipment and an overcoat. He was an older Marine having been in his early 40s when he went in. It would be great if someone has any knowledge of him.

Dave Kessler

[dkessler71@gmail.com](mailto:dkessler71@gmail.com)



Lacey R. Kessler



## Louis Groman

My father, Louis Groman, was a corpsman in the Sixth Marine Division from 1943-46. He was from Brooklyn, NY and served in the South Pacific and ended active duty in China around April 1946. If anyone has any knowledge, information or comments about him, please contact me.

Semper Fi,

Steven Groman

[marsteve18@optimum.net](mailto:marsteve18@optimum.net)

(516) 225-0613



## Walter King (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-G)

I'm looking to make connections to anyone who remembers my grandfather, Walter King. He was from western PA, and I believe he was in 29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-G.

Thank you so much,

Christian Brennen

[CKBrennen@gmail.com](mailto:CKBrennen@gmail.com)

(814) 421-9187



Walter King



above and right:  
Louis Groman





# MAIL CALL



Statue of a code talker at the Navajo Veterans Memorial Park, Window Rock, AZ

## Amos R. Patrick, Navajo Code Talker

We thank Don Patrick for alerting us to Navajo Code Talkers Day on August 14. His father, Amos R. Patrick was a Navajo Code Talker with the Sixth Marine Division. He saw combat action, and his last major tour was on Okinawa. He recalled the Sugar Loaf Hill battle and

some island hopping. He passed on December 29, 1969. Don placed a mention of honor for him on the online WWII Memorial.

The Navajo Nation recognizes August 14 as Navajo Code Talker Day. It commemorates the remarkable legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers and the extraordinary sacrifices and contributions they made to our country.



## Christmas 1945 Dinner Menu

Thank you to Thomas D. for sharing the photo, below right, of a Christmas menu from Tsingtao, China in 1945. Below left is the menu on the inside:

ENLISTED MESS,  
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION,  
SIXTH MARINE DIVISION,  
IN THE FIELD.

CHRISTMAS DINNER  
TSINGTAO, CHINA 1200 – 25 December, 1945.

M E N U

ROAST TOM TURKEY  
NUT DRESSING                      GIBLET GRAVY  
WHIPPED WHITE POTATOES  
BUTTERED PEAS  
CANDIED CARROTS  
RIPE OLIVES                      CELERY STALKS  
MIXED NUTS                      SWEET & SOUR PICKLES  
HARD CANDY  
FRUIT CAKE  
ICE CREAM WITH HOT FUDGE TOPPING  
BREAD                      COFFEE  
PEANUTS                      CIGARETTES  
CANDY BARS                      CIGARS  
GUM



# MAIL CALL



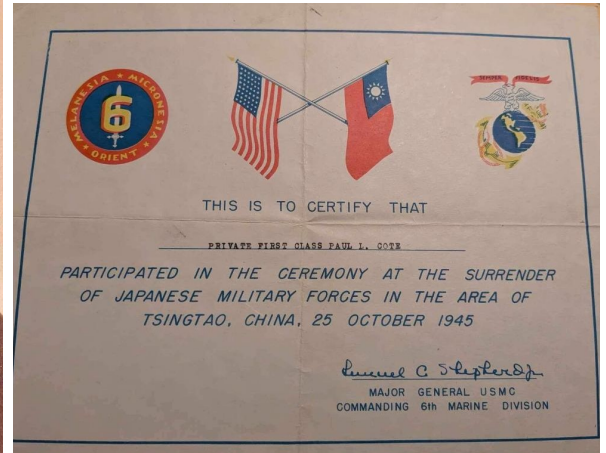
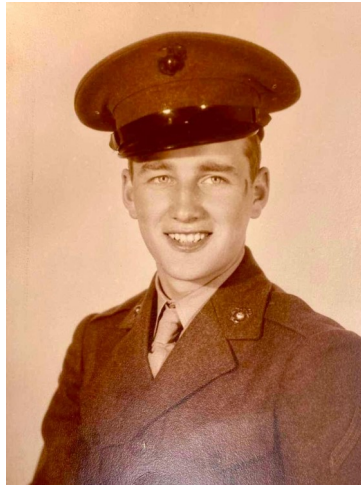
**Paul L. Cote and A.T. (Pete) Henry (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-HQ)**

My father, Cpl. Paul Louis Cote, was a telephone lineman with HQ 2/29. He was a life member of the Association, and he went on to guard duty in heaven in 2009. My mother went to be with him the following year. I went with my parents to a reunion in Norfolk in 2007 in case my mother needed help with my Dad (he was a couple of years into Alzheimer's disease).

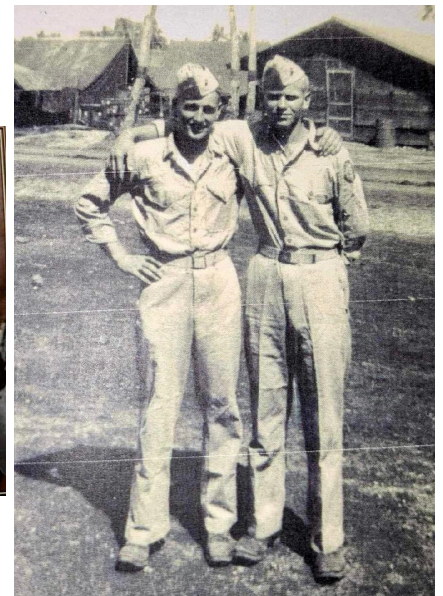
One of my dad's buddies was Pete Henry. I had the honor of meeting him at my folks' home in New Hampshire when he was traveling to Bangor, ME to visit his son. He was from Florence, AL and passed in August 2023. The last time I talked with him was in June 2023, and he told me he was the last one left from HQ 2/29 as far as he knew.

I have some Sixth Division photos I would like to share, including some from Guam, some from China where the Sixth Marine Division was part of the Japanese surrender, and some from a reunion in Maine, I believe

Paul Cote  
9024 Shawn Ave.  
Port Richey, FL 34668  
[sargentnoneck3@gmail.com](mailto:sargentnoneck3@gmail.com)



above left: Paul L. Louis Cote in uniform  
above right: certificate Paul received after participating in the Japanese surrender



above: Paul L. Cote in later years  
right: Paul L. Cote and A. T. "Pete" Henry on Guam



Does anyone know when and where this was taken? Paul thinks it might be Maine.

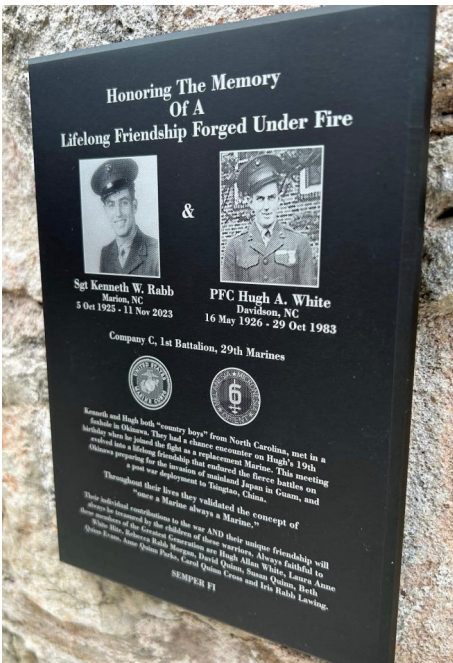
# MAIL CALL



## Hugh White and Kenneth Rabb (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-1-C)

On May 16, 2024, we had a plaque dedication ceremony at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX to honor my father, Hugh White, and his best friend, Kenneth Rabb, both in 29<sup>th</sup> Mar-1-C. They were country boys from North Carolina who met in a fox hole near Sugar Loaf Hill on my father's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday – May 16, 1945, They became lifelong friends.

Allan White  
POB 1431  
Huntersville, NC 28070  
[whiteha@bellsouth.net](mailto:whiteha@bellsouth.net)  
(980) 833-6739



above: plaque honoring Hugh White and Kenneth Rabb  
right: wreath from the ceremony

## Charles Robert Cochrane

My grandfather, Charles Robert “Chuck” Cochrane was born August 29, 1924 in Oakland, CA and was in the Okinawa with the Sixth Marine Division. I’m curious to know if anyone remembers him.

Casie Jean Cochrane  
[casiecochrane82@gmail.com](mailto:casiecochrane82@gmail.com)



Charles Cochrane



## Wilfred Henry Schroeder

My grandfather, Wilfred Henry Schroeder, was in the Sixth Maine Division. I have tried so hard to find out more information and have run into dead ends. If anyone knew my Grandpa or knows anything they can tell me, I'd be very grateful.

Thank you,  
Sheila McDaniel  
[sheilaaddison1@gmail.com](mailto:sheilaaddison1@gmail.com)



above: Wilfred and Barbara Schroeder on their wedding day

below: Wilfred Schroeder's medals



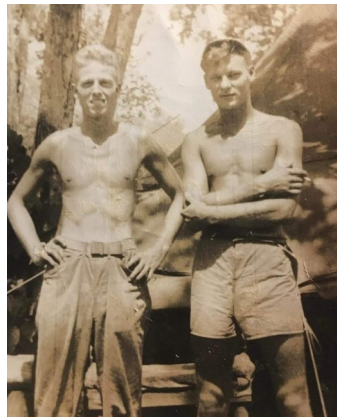
# MAIL CALL



**Max Yuchniuk Jr.**  
(29th Mar-3-G)

I am sending photos of my dad, Max Yuchniuk Jr. He was wounded on Okinawa and passed several years ago. I am very proud of him.

Ronald Yuchniuk  
coach.y.13@sbcglobal.net



## Tsingtao PX Menu

I am attaching two items that Harry Stanifer (6th Engineer Bn-C) sent me. One is a PX menu that lists food items available in Tsingtao, China. The other is a poem that Harry recently wrote about the Greatest Generation. Earlier today, I spoke on the phone with Harry, and we had a good talk. He is currently living in Tecumseh, Michigan.

Garent Gunther, USMC

[Editor's Note: Thank you, Harry and Garent! We regret that we do not have enough room for Harry's poem in this edition, but you can find it on our website.

As for the PX menu, it's fun to see what was served and what everything cost back then. How about Tenderloin Steak for 50¢, Fried Spuds for 10¢, and American Apple Pie for 15¢? Add some vanilla ice cream for just 20¢!

One thing I am wondering though — Did any Marine ever order a Lettuce Sandwich?]

**U.S.M.C. PRIVATES CLUB.**  
**A LA CARTE**

Soup		No.	
1 Campbell's ...	25	12 Tomatoes Creamed	35
3 Beef Tea ...	30	4 Chili Con Carne	30
Eggs			
5 Ham Eggs ...	40	6 Fried Eggs 1 d.	20
7 Bacon Egg's ...	45	8 Omelette Ham	25
9 Omelette Cheese	25	10 Omelette Plain	20
Chicken			
11 Chicken A La Club	60	12 Chicken A La Marland	60
13 Chicken A La King	60	14 Fillet Mignon single	50
15 Sirloln steak single	40	16 Fillet Mignon double	95
17 Sirloln Steak double	75	18 Porthouse and single	50
19 Tenderloin steak	50	20 Porthouse and double	95
21 Tenderloin steak double	95	22 Pork Chop with Home	50
23 Hamburger steak	40	Made Noodle	
Sandwich			
25 U.S.M.C. Club Sandwich	45	24 Chicken Sandwich	35
27 Ham Sandwich ...	25	26 Ham Egg Sandwich	35
29 Hamburger Sandwich	20	28 Cheese Pimientos Sand	25
31 Steak Sandwich	25	30 Eggs Sandwich	15
33 Tomatoes Sandwich	15	32 Lettuce Sandwich	15
Cold Meat & Salad			
35 Chicken & Salad	55	34 Roast Beef and Salad	30
37 Ham & Salad ...	60	33 Cheefoo Prawn & Salad	30
Salad			
38 Tomatoes Salad ...	15	38 Spuds Salad	15
41 Lettuce Salad	20	40 Beetroot Salad	15
Spuds			
43 Spuds Chips	10	42 Spuds French Frie.I	10
45 Spuds German Fried	10	44 Fried Spuds	10
Dessert			
47 Walnuts Apple Pie	20	46 American Apple Pie	15
49 Lemon Pie	15	48 American Pumpkin	15
51 Vanilla Ice Cream	20	50 Chocolate Ice Cream	20
53 Brasileira De Coffee	10	52 Lipton's Tea	10
Special Order			
55 Boneless Veal Cutlets	50	54 Prawn Cutlets	35

**PLEASE ORDER BY NUMBER**  
**ALL PRICES MAX.**

**Ancient Treatment Of Outlaws Is Revived As Bandits' Ears Are Cut**

The ancient rule of severing ears from captured bandits and various kinds of other outlaws, as practiced in England a few hundred years back, has been adopted in portions of China, according to a report appearing in the Sium Poo yesterday. Several hundred bandits captured in Hupeh by General Chen Kwan-tung were recently operated upon and are now going their various ways free, but well marked, men. The bandits were forced to kneel and had their hearing organs lop- ped off in the presence of a large crowd of spectators. They were then liberated after being strongly advised to change their mode of living. Being satisfied with only imitating this terrible stigma upon the lawbreakers who fell into his hands, General Chen hit upon another novel idea of ridding his territory of bandits. Recently he received word that a large number of bandits were in hiding in a forest. Realizing that it would be difficult to catch them, he set fire to the woods. The fire is reported to be still alight.

Fall 2024

12



# 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.**

April, Reuben	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F	03/09/14
Bartels, Mary	wife of William Bartels	04/01/23
Bauer, Bessie	wife of Raymond Bauer	03/11/24
Belt, Wanda	wife of John Belt	10/05/22
Bennett, Bruno	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-2-HQ	08/16/24
Callis, Walter B.	6 <sup>th</sup> Engineer-1-A	12/18/23
Clemensen, Beverly	wife of Christen Clemensen	11/13/23
Cote, Paul Louis	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-2-HQ	08/16/09
Cox, Barney R.	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-2-HQ	02/24/22
Groman, Louis	6 <sup>th</sup> Marine Div Corpsman	03/20/86
Holeman, Lois	wife of Nathan Holeman	unknown
Rigby, Darius C. (DC)	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-3-HQ & 1 <sup>st</sup> Prov	11/02/24
Stout, Harry Jr.	29 <sup>th</sup> Marines	01/02/15
White, Hugh	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-1-C	10/29/83

## Reporting Deaths

Please report deaths as soon as possible to:

**Patty Payne**

**Membership Chair**

**(410) 978-2979**

**pjpayne1984@verizon.net**

## DC Rigby Passes Away at 100

DC Rigby grew up in the small town of Sinton, Texas where he developed his love for ranching and rodeoing. In 1942, he graduated from Sinton High School, and the following year he joined the Marines Corps. In November 1943, DC was shipped to Hawaii and assigned to the 22nd Regiment. The following year, he participated in several engagements including the liberation of Guam. After training with the Sixth Marine Division on Guadalcanal, DC fought in the Battle of Okinawa.

Returning to Sinton after the war, DC married the girl of his dreams, Christine Brown of

Devine, Texas. He worked for Central Power and Light while he and Christine raised a daughter and son. After retirement, they moved to Devine where DC returned to his love of ranching and land stewardship. He attended many Association reunions with Christine and later with his son, Jim. DC had a smile for everyone.

DC had a couple of notable celebrations at the end of his life. He was among the Marines who drank a toast from the Last Man Bottle at the final Reunion in 2021, and he celebrated his 100th birthday in March of this year. RIP Marine.



DC Rigby at the 2021 Reunion in Fredericksburg, VA

# The Honor, Deferred

by Robert B. Stewart in honor of my father, Major W.H. Stewart, Jr. (Ret.) and now deceased, who for too many years never received the honor he deserved for his amazing sacrifice for his country & family.

[Editor's Note: Major Stewart was a machine gun crewman with the Sixth Marine Division and participated in the assault on Okinawa. After the war, he got a Bachelor's degree in animal husbandry, married and had three children. When the war in Korea broke out, he re-enlisted in the Marine Corps. In addition to fighting in Korea, he did three tours of duty in Vietnam.

I often hear from lineal descendants who speak of how much they honor their fathers and grandfathers for their service. But sometimes, the emotions are more complex. Bob told me he and his father did not have the best relationship when he was growing up. It took many years — with the help of his Christian faith — for him to appreciate and honor his father's sacrifice.]

When less than a man before honor is born,  
When dreams chase fulfillment beyond promising scorn;  
And a young man's thoughts are yet to be words,  
Then is when honor first whispers its urge.

It is valor, it is virtue;  
It is noble and True.

Yet in the promise of youth and the blossom inferred,  
'Tis indeed but a future and the honor, deferred.

Is a man now a man when to war he must go?  
On the line lays his valor and new courage to show.  
In the heat of the fire, when the heroic is blind,  
And bullets sing the death knells of others in line.  
Hot is the life that burns in the breast  
For another young man has stood in the test.

Yet in the promise of youth and the blossom inferred,  
'Tis indeed but a future and the honor, deferred.

Now the battle is over and a hero er' one,  
From the lowest of privates, to a mother's young son.

But where is the honor, and where is the cast?  
And what gold can atone for the shrine of the past?

Look quick, it is there!  
Yea, look hard, it's just: air.

And the promise of youth and the blossom inferred,  
'Tis indeed but a future and the honor's deferred.

So a family is bought at the price of a war,  
And hope rides the heart of a man with a score.

With a woman as wife, two sons and a girl,  
Not long will it be till his colors unfurl.

In the breast lies dormant a man's greatest dream,  
Of the Greek's "arete" to be born in the stream.

Yet in the promise of youth and the blossom inferred,  
'Tis indeed but a future and the honor, deferred.



Major W. H. Stewart, Jr.

*(continued on next page)*

# The Honor, Deferred

*(continued from prior page)*

But no war is as large as the one now entered,  
No ground yet gained but so grudgingly rendered.

While honor waits patient in a son's heart to view,  
A father despairs its visit, a back: his solid clue.

There's a tear, in the heart;  
Don't reveal, don't even start.

Alas, the eroding of youth and the blossom interred,  
There seems no future and the honor, still: deferred.

With the years gone behind us, is a father's lost hope,  
Of a son ever bearing honor guard: no, a sand rope.

But low, the step quickens, like a river's set roll,  
Like the rise of a flag on a Pacific atoll.

Though never on Tulagi, or where Raiders fought swift,  
In a son wakes the honor for a father's life gift.

And from the promise of youth and the flower inferred,  
Comes a future now present, and the honor: conferred!

What thing is this honor, 'twas so long to confer,  
Can't be bought or commanded, but must naturally stir.

As in the Sun is now perfect, His glory to shine,  
To honor the Father, of Lights His design.

Now, a Son waits in patience, for a sign, for a token,  
From His children, His lifeblood, yet nothing is spoken.

Alas, there's a tear! At the Cross,

He paid dear, on our battlefield: here!

And, in His promise of youth and the Blossom inferred,  
'Tis indeed but a future and the honor, deferred.

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## Japanese Transport - Kinugawa Maru

Kinugawa Maru is a World War II Japanese transport ship that was beached off the coast of Guadalcanal on November 15, 1942. It was attacked by U.S. forces the same day and left to burn. Today it is mostly submerged and is a popular site for scuba divers.

The ship was very familiar to Marines of the Sixth Marine Division who were living in Company tent areas along the coast of Guadalcanal. It was a popular swimming destination until orders were issued not to swim to it. Several Marines had been injured by sharp, rusted metal and received severe burns from touching the red hot decking of the sunbaked ship.

On Christmas Day 1944, USN Corpsman Third Class, Ken Campbell, a member of the 22nd Regiment, created this oil painting of the hulk. Ken took four hours to complete the painting, and he was rewarded with a very severe burn.

~John Ratowski



KINUGAWA MARU BEACHED NOV. 1942 - GUADALCANAL

# Sixth Marine Division Association

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## Striking Sixth Newsletter

Fall 2024

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



U.S. Marines and Sailors with Battalion Landing Team 1/8 conduct a memorial run in remembrance of the 1983 Marine barracks bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) while underway in the Mediterranean Sea, Oct. 20, 2024. source: marines.mil