

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



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Summer 2025

## Mission Accomplished! Monk Martin Is On The Wall

When he was growing up, Bob McGowan's father, Robert (a squad leader with 29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-H), told him stories about his service during the war. He mostly talked about his buddies, those who survived the war and those who never came home. Bob grew up idolizing these men.

When his father died in 1999, Bob realized he was now the keeper of their legacy. He began by contacting the Marines who were still alive. Through them, he connected with the Sixth Marine Division Assn. and began going to reunions.

Finding information about his father's fallen comrades took more time. In many cases, all he had was a last name. But Bob would not give up. He felt a special responsibility to find the graves and families of the men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Finding the grave of Robert's corpsman proved to be particularly challenging. Bob remembered his dad pointing to a photo (shown above) in *The History of The Sixth Marine Division* (aka the green book). The photo is well known and also appears on the cover of Robert Lecke's book, *Okinawa: The Last Battle of World War II*. It shows a corpsman walking as he covers the side of his injured face, followed by another injured service member. Neither man is identified, but Robert told Bob the corpsman was Monk Martin, who was attached to his platoon. His father described Monk as "a good Marine and a good Corpsman."

(continued on next page)



photo from *The History of the Sixth Marine Division*

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## We're Getting Together!

SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 3, 2025 ~ QUANTICO, VA

It's getting close! See all the details on pages 13-15.

# Monk Martin Is On The Wall

(continued from front cover)

Monk is just a nickname; Bob had no idea what his real first name was. In addition, Martin is a common name; there were three Martins in Robert's platoon alone. But Bob persevered, and eventually he discovered that Monk's real name was Vernon and he was buried in his hometown of Niles, Michigan.



Monk Martin's grave in Niles, MI

Bob traveled to Niles to pay his respects, and he placed a Sixth Marine Division marker on Monk's grave. However, he was never able to find any family members.

Several years later, Bob was browsing in a bookstore and came across a book titled *The Battle of Okinawa 1945* by Jon Diamond. He paged through it and was surprised to find the familiar photo of Monk with this caption: "A pair of walking wounded with non-life-threatening injuries return to the rear for further aid during April's combat. US Navy Pharmacist Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Vernon Martin (front) with Private First Class Robert Schlosser behind him." Robert was right; it was Monk! Bob never doubted it, but it was nice to have it confirmed.

The photo was taken on April 11 when Monk was wounded in the left temple by a mortar fragment. He returned to duty on April 12. On May 14, as Robert's platoon was fighting on a small hill on the left flank of Sugar Loaf, Monk was killed by a shell fragment that struck him on the chest. He was just 18 years old.

Fast forward to 2024. Laura Lacey told Bob's wife about Steph Pawelski in Okinawa. Steph and her husband Jeff, a Chief Warrant Officer in the Marine Corps, are on their second tour of duty in Okinawa. Steph started a Facebook page "Okinawa Battle Sites," which details her explorations of Okinawa's battle sites with Jeff. [See the summer 2024 Striking Sixth for more on this, as well as the article about Steph on page

6 of this issue.]

Bob sent Steph the photo of Monk. In an amazing coincidence, she had just seen



Monk Martin

it on a brochure about the battle. Steph and Jeff decided to visit Okinawa's Peace Memorial Park. This park has a Peace Wall, which is a series of granite slabs engraved with the names of the more than 240,000 who perished during the Battle of Okinawa. Steph and Jeff wanted to make a rubbing of Monk's

(continued on next page)



Peace Memorial Park on Okinawa

# Monk Martin Is On The Wall

(continued from prior page)

name to send to Bob. But when they got there, they discovered his name was not on the wall.

Bob theorizes that Monk's name may have fallen through the cracks since corpsmen were technically in the Navy. Whatever the reason, it wasn't right. Monk belongs on that wall.

But how to get it done? Anyone who has been on Steph's Facebook page knows when there is a job to do, she jumps right in. And she doesn't quit until the job is done. Over the next several months, she made inquiries, completed all the paperwork, and had it translated into Japanese. But there was one problem – they needed Monk's casualty card to prove he was killed in the battle.

Bob reached out to Beth Reuschel of Reuschel Research, who is a whiz at researching veterans' military

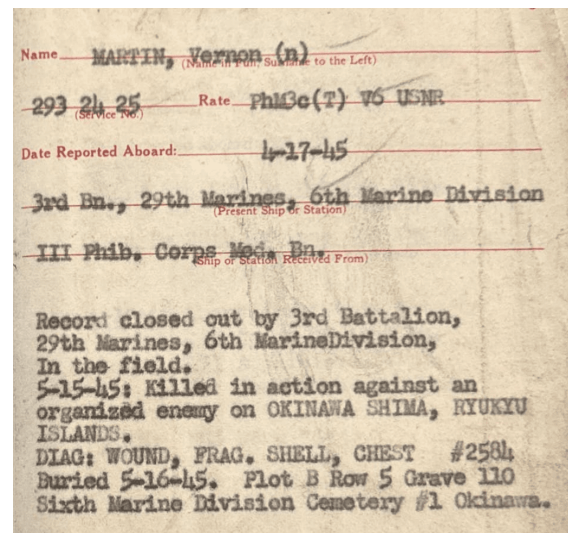


Steph Pawelski in front of the Peace Wall with Monk Martin's name

service records. She is just as dedicated and determined as Steph. Beth traveled to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, and after several days, she found the casualty card showing Monk was killed in the battle.

There was more red tape to get through, but thanks to the Bob, Steph and Beth, the mission was accomplished. Vernon Martin's name was added to the wall in time for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the battle.

- Carroll McGowan



Monk Martin's casualty card. DOD is 5/15/45, the day his body was found.



Beth Reuschel and a WWII veteran



right: bouquet left by Steph for Monk Martin at the wall

To learn more about Beth Reuschel's veterans research services, go to: [reuschelresearch.com](http://reuschelresearch.com).

Beth creates research packages, websites, and custom travel itineraries so you can follow in your veteran's footsteps.

If you'd rather do it yourself, Beth shows you how — click on "Ebook" on her site.

# On God's Payroll

by Arno W. Schroeder (29th Mar-2-F)

Arno Schroeder was a great story teller, and as he grew older, his son Doug urged him to write his stories down. Happily for us, Arno took that suggestion and wrote more than 200 stories about his life, including his childhood, his time in the Marines, and his adulthood. Doug put them into chronological order and published them in the book, *On God's Payroll*. Taken together, they provide a fascinating window into the life of one Sixth Division Marine. And what a life it was!

We ran two of Arno's stories in the Spring 2025 *Striking Sixth*. In the story below, Arno's describes the Sixth Marine Division's time on Guam after the Battle of Okinawa ended. It was here that they learned about the bombing of Hiroshima.

## Story #72 – Guam

When we anchored at Guam July 18, 1945 having survived Okinawa, we thought this would be a time to regroup, rest, and heal our wounds for those who had not been sent back to the States, get some food other than K-rations and C-rations, and just take it easy for a while. Not at all!

Before we arrived there, an area had been cleared in the jungle, close to what used to be or still was the capital of Guam – Agna [sic]. All that was left of Agna was a few bombed outbuildings. A few palm trees were standing in our area, but for the most part, it was a flat place to pitch our tents.

So instead of resting, the work began at once. We called it Tent City. Tents had to be put up with wood floors (we were used to sleeping on the ground), showers built, mess hall put up, ships had to be unloaded, [and] duty twenty-four hours a day [established]. We were surrounded by jungle, and even though the island had been under US military control for a year, there were still some Japs in the jungle that did not believe it or had



Arno at Marine boot camp

not gotten the word. (The last one showed up about thirty years later.)

Not only did we do all the above and many other things, but as soon as we got to Guam, we started training for our landing on mainland Japan. This was difficult for some of us that had been injured. No quarter was given us; we had to train with the rest. I found out that the date had been set for October first.

All this was done while we continued to eat combat food, C-

rations mostly. There was an army base a few miles from us that had the kind of chow we hoped for. Some of the chow hounds in our unit would sneak into the army chow line until they caught up with them, and told us of the great food they had. Our officers did not eat in our mess halls; they had much better food than we had.

There were two things they added to our diet. One I think every WWII GI knows was Spam with some kind of liquid—I hate to call it gravy—on bread. We called it s— on the shingle. Also, the natives raised a lot of cabbage. This was purchased from them, and our cooks fed us cabbage in every shape and form. We hated it. Fried, boiled, mixed with C-rations—it still tasted and smelled like cabbage. To add insult to injury, we had to pick the cabbage by the truck-load. The natives did not seem to like to work, so this was added to our line of duty. It was years after I got home before I would eat cabbage.

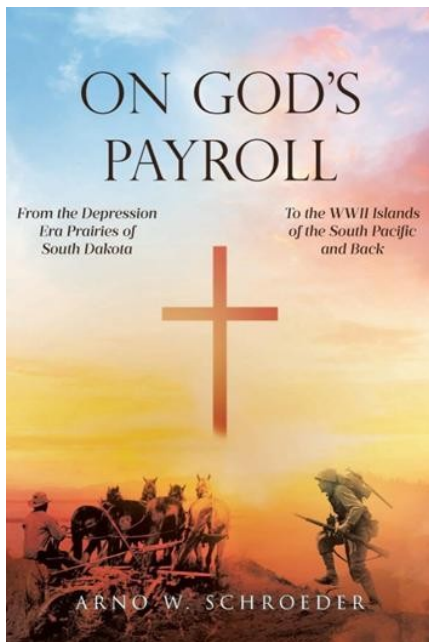
The tension of war was still there all the time. A lot of young replacements had arrived from the States, and we had a full di-

*(continued on the next page)*

# On God's Payroll

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vision again. When I say young, I meant I was only twenty myself (though I felt much older). The new replacements were anxious for a battle. Those of us that had been in combat did not expect to survive if we landed on mainland Japan. We knew what it was like. The new young officers were also looking forward to it. They were trying to train us and didn't know at all what actual combat was all about. They knew how we felt, but they had to do their job. They were envious of our combat experience and also of the medals and ribbons we had won like the Presidential Unit Citation. There was no way to win that without extreme and unusual combat service, and they were afraid the war would be over before they had their chance. We as combat veterans felt that envy very



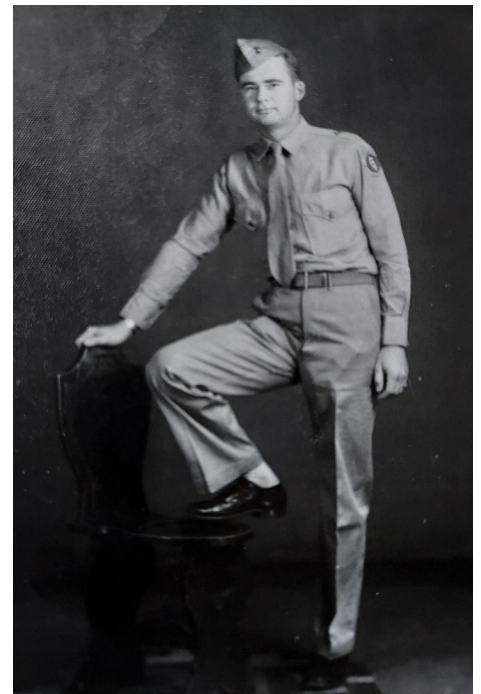
On God's Payroll is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble,

much from the young officers that joined us in China.

They did something that was supposed to relax and somewhat entertain us. We had an outside theater, if you want to call it that; logs on the ground to sit on; a little stage that was used for lectures at times; rewards given, etc. Also movies, but they were always the same ones. Also, after we had been there awhile, they had what they called a beer garden—also just logs and an open area. I think it was every Thursday evening it was open. They would give us each four chits: each one worth one can of beer. I always had a lot of buddies that night. I always gave three away and kept one because it was about the only cool, not cold, thing we ever got. I would drink half to feel cool and then toss the rest.

I did not like Guam. I was very depressed. I had not learned to live with pain yet. The thought of further combat was almost more than I could take. I did not know how my injuries would affect the rest of my life if I survived. To this day I don't care to think of Guam.

But about that time they dropped the bomb. What a day of rejoicing for us combat vets. I am sure some of the newcomers felt cheated. This saved many, many, many lives. The US military thought a total of one million lives would be lost on our



Arno in Tsingtao, China after the war

side, but now we would be going home—so we thought. It was now more of a relaxed atmosphere. Our training was eased. Guard duty was never relaxed. Japan had not surrendered yet, but when they did, we were sure we would be going home. But soon the scuttlebutt (rumor) was not what we wanted to hear. The Sixth Marine Division was not going home.

One day, we were ordered to go [the] quartermaster's hut. It was over one hundred degrees. We were issued long johns. At least we knew we were not staying at Guam. By now, it is September. We were loading ships instead of unloading. Then the day came we walked up the gangplanks. We were headed for northern China.

# Past and Present Come Together in Okinawa's Caves

from Steph Pawelski's Facebook page — Okinawa Battle Sites

Okinawa's natural beauty is breathtaking. The vegetation thrives, flowers bloom, and white sandy beaches fade into the teal blue oceans. The Okinawan people have a kindness that never fades. Their warmth extends not only in gesture but, also, in spirit. Okinawa is a true tropical paradise.

There are many caves on Okinawa. Stalagmites reach upwards mirroring their stalactite counterparts. Their shapes vary.



stalactites in one of Okinawa's caves

Some are thin and delicate, while others stretch out like soft flower petals. Each one is unique and what's amazing is that they took thousands of years to form. These formations created a network of support that holds the weight of the earth around the cave from caving in. Each drip of water contributes to the slow creation of something extraordinary. As I stood there, I listened to the steady dripping of stalactites. The rhythmic pattern echoed, a reminder of time passing.

Although now peaceful, I began imagining the fear and uncertainty felt by the Okinawans hiding in these caves 80 years ago.

Okinawans were vulnerable and left to fend for themselves throughout the Battle of Okinawa; civilians sought refuge in caves. The Japanese military failed to offer protection to Okinawans in desperate need during the conflict. Mothers, particularly, were consumed by a deep sense of terror. They feared their infants and children crying in hunger or discomfort would reveal their hiding places. The presence of a baby's cry would lead the Japanese soldiers to their location. They often had to silence their children to avoid detection by the enemy. The terrifying irony is that it wasn't the Americans that would lead them to their dooms. In a cruel twist of fate, the United States military, the very ones they were told to fear, would liberate them from this nightmarish ordeal.

Caves on Okinawa tell two stories at once — of



Steph Pawelski in Okinawa cave, caught between past and present

breathtaking beauty and of the harrowing history. Together they create an eerie strength of being caught between the past and present. This was not just a visit to a cave.



Eleven civilians of Okinawa were herded in this cave and rescued by Marines when their position was given away by the cry of a baby. They were first assured they would not be harmed.

*Photo and Caption Credit: Okinawa Prefectural Archives*

# Smoke Cigarettes and Live Longer?

by James S. White (29th Mar-3-G)

Can cigarettes be bad for your health? Perhaps. The Three-On-A-Match superstition began during the Boer War early in the Twentieth Century. Supposedly, one British soldier could light up a cigarette at night with impunity. A second soldier could use that same lighted lucifer match to light his fag. But when another soldier was the third man to use the same match, a Boer sniper had time to get his Mauser in position and aim at the flame. In that case cigarettes were definitely harmful to health. And yet there is evidence that cigarettes might make you live longer.

In the Marine Corps in World War II, everything always seemed to be done alphabetically. We were paid in alphabetical order. We received inoculations, issues of clothing, even got assignments to rifle companies according to alphabetical order.

Dick Whitaker and I were bunk mates at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. When names are put in alphabetical sequence, Whitaker precedes White. After we went overseas, Dick Whitaker was put in F Company while I became a member of G Company, both companies being in the 29th Marines of the 6th Marine Division.

When we landed on the island of Okinawa, things seemed to cease being done in alphabetical order. Apparently, the Japanese didn't

know much about our alphabet. Whitaker or White would be shot at just as quickly as someone named Abbott or Baker.

On Okinawa, Dick Whitaker's F Company assaulted a hill called Sugar Loaf. They weren't on that hill very long before most members of F Company became casualties. After they had carried their wounded off of Sugar Loaf, no one from F Company was left alive on the hill.

After they came off of Sugar Loaf Hill, Dick Whitaker and a buddy dug in. In those days, as it always has, the Marine Corps had an "Attack" philosophy, so a fighting hole, or foxhole, was a temporary emplacement and was usually no more than a foot to a foot-and-a-half deep, with the dirt from the hole piled around the hole to give it a little more depth. The size of a foxhole was about six or seven feet long and with a three to four foot width, about like a shallow grave. Entrenching tools (hereinafter called "ETs") were used to dig foxholes. An ET was a small folding shovel, whose stout sheet metal blade could be folded down to fit in a pouch fastened to the top flap of the haversack, as our back packs were called.

The foot-and-a-half long wooden handle of the ET hung down the back. The blade of an ET could be locked at a right angle to be used as a pick or to chop roots;

or the blade could be locked in a fully extended position to dig holes and shovel dirt.

After their foxhole was finished, Dick Whitaker's buddy was lying on his back on the bottom of the hole. Dick was sitting on the bottom of the hole with his back leaning against the wooden handle of his ET. Dick's buddy put a cigarette between his lips and started to light it. Dick got a cigarette out of a package, grasped the handle of his ET with his left hand and leaned down to get a light from his buddy. Just as Dick leaned down, a Japanese sniper's bullet struck dead center in the wooden handle of the ET and wounded Dick's left hand.

Dick Whitaker analyzed that sequence of events many times over the years and always reached the same conclusion. If he hadn't leaned down for a light for his cigarette just when he did, that sniper's bullet would have hit at about the third button of his dungaree jacket. Dick's cigarette smoking habit extended his life.





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**Get together with veterans and fans of the Sixth Marine Division in Quantico this fall!**

**See pages 13-15 for more information.**

## Unit Directors

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
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1st Amphibs	Vacant

## Striking Sixth Newsletter

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# Meet VMI Scholarship Winner, Jack C. Fletcher

*Each year VMI awards three scholarships 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.*

*These scholarships 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.*

My name is Jack Fletcher, and I'm a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. I'm originally from Duluth, Georgia, and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 2025 with a degree in Modern Languages and Cultures. While at VMI, I held several leadership positions and had the honor of receiving the General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr. Scholarship from the Sixth Marine Division Association. In my free time, I enjoy working on cars and researching health and fitness, two passions that keep me grounded and always learning.

I chose the Marine Corps because, compared to the other branches, I've always been drawn to the people, their motivating attitude, intensity, and commitment to excellence. I'm currently pursuing a career in Marine Corps aviation, and I'm humbled to carry forward the legacy of the Marines who came before me.

Very Respectfully,  
Jack C. Fletcher



Jack C. Fletcher at his commissioning at VMI, 2025

## Editor's Note



Yesterday, as I was working on the cover story for the newsletter, Bob came over to my desk. "Look what I found on our doorstep," he said. It was a priority mail envelope from S. Pawelski. If you've read the cover story — and you should! — you can probably guess what it was. We just looked at each other and smiled.

Sure enough, it was a rubbing of Monk Martin's name on the Peace Memorial Wall in Okinawa. That

rubbing represented a lot of work on the part of Steph, Bob and Beth Reuschel. But the most important work was done by Monk himself when he served his country on Okinawa. Now his name is in a place of honor on the island where he aided his fellow Marines and made the ultimate sacrifice.

Let us never forget.

I thank Steph for the rubbing, and I thank Bob, Steph and Beth for their efforts to get Monk the recognition he deserves.

~Carroll McGowan

## Donations — Thank You!

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### NEWSLETTER FUND

Fred Schaub

# MAIL CALL



## A. Robert Mitchell (22nd Mar-1-C)



My father, A. Robert Mitchell (above), is still doing well at the age of 99. He was delighted to receive his newsletter today, especially since it featured the anniversary of the invasion of Okinawa, a battle that he fought in. He has remembered that day every April 1st for 80 years.

Your work is much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Casey Mitchell



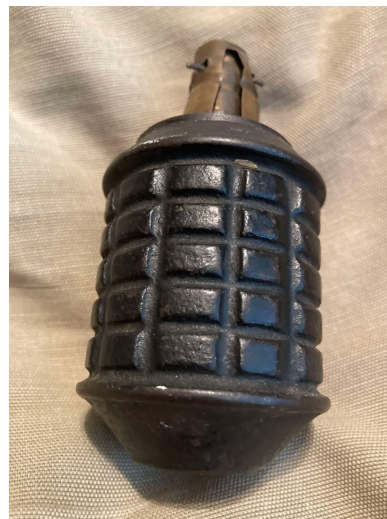
## Simon Kleeger (22nd Mar-2-G)

Imagine, if you can...it's 1944, you're 18 years old, you're "camping out" with a bunch of guys mostly your own age. It's been a long day and a quiet, hot and humid night.

You managed to catch an hour or two of sleep, and you woke to the sounds of running boots and sporadic gunfire. You rolled over and there was a rock next to your head that wasn't there when you dozed off. You thought nothing of it because you were not supposed to be comfortable.

Then came sunrise on Guadalcanal; you remembered where you were and why your buddies called you "Doc." You're just a 3rd Class Pharmacist Mate, USN, and you remembered pissing off that Chief and being volunteered for the Fleet Marine Force, Sixth Marine Division, 22nd Marines, Company G, and that "rock" isn't a rock, but a Japanese grenade that was thrown into your foxhole but didn't explode.

You had a buddy who was crazier than you take it apart and remove the explosive charge and detonator, and you now had the desktop paper weight that you carried with you until the day you died, about 70 years later.



Simon Kleeger's souvenir from Guadalcanal

That was my father, Simon Kleeger, who was with the Sixth from the Canal until he was evacuated from Okinawa. He saw and did some pretty terrible things; he rarely ever talked about it with anyone, unless they had been there too. He was a proud and active member of

the Association and attended several reunions over the years.

He's been gone about ten years now. His final resting place is the Horton Cemetery in Suffolk, Virginia. The bench nearest his marker proudly proclaims the Sixth Marine Division.

Andrew Kleeger



## Remembering Angus John Graham (4th Mar-3-K)

I recently had the honor to organize a memorial for my great-uncle, Pvt. Angus John Graham (4th Mar-3-K). May 22, 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of his death fighting on Okinawa. (See photos below.)

Scott White



## Joe Cunningham (6MD)

My grandfather, Joseph Cunningham from Pittsburgh, PA, served with the 6th on Okinawa and in China. I miss him terribly and would love information about his war experiences. Does anyone remember him? His nickname was Red.

Maryjo Murphy Gortz  
Gortzy5@yahoo.com  
216-408-5533



## Harry Lowell Dixon (29th Mar-2-F) KIA 5/19/45

I was wondering if anyone has any information on my great-great-uncle who was KIA in Okinawa on May 19, 1945. His name was Harry Lowell Dixon, and he was a Corporal in 29th Mar-2-F.

Gunnar Dixon  
Gunnar.dixon7@gmail.com



Harry Lowell Dixon



## Happy 100th Birthday to Doc Wells!

On April 5, Kenneth “Doc” Wells (29th Mar-2-F) reached the century mark. His wife, Natalie, reports that her children planned a very special celebration for him.

The evening before Doc’s birthday, they put a 100th birthday sign at his house. The next morning, he was picked up in an official 1942 jeep and paraded around his Florida town. At least fifty motorcycles and jeeps joined the parade!

Then it was on to a restaurant for a fun-filled 100th birthday party with family and friends. If we can believe the cake — and how could we doubt it? — they partied like it was 1925!

We are delighted to hear that Doc got the celebration he deserves, and we join his family and friends in saying Happy Birthday, Doc!



Kenneth “Doc” Wells with wife Natalie



# 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.

Belleman, Delbert E.	4th Mar-HQ-H&S	06/16/24
Carmel, E. Richard	22nd Marines	08/14/15
Fenton, Granert	22nd Mar-3-L	12/21/12
Loftis, W. Garland	22nd Mar-1-C	2020
Mansker, Raymond C.	4th Marines	06/28/95, both
Paulk, Ralph	22nd Mar-3-L	2009
Reardon, Philip H.	22nd Marines	08/14/16
Tomishak, Theodore	22nd Mar-3-L	03/02/10

**Reporting Deaths**  
 Please report deaths as soon as possible to:  
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 pjpayne1984@verizon.net

## Neal McCallum (29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F) Returns to Okinawa

At 10:30 am on April 1, 1945, Neal McCallum landed on Green Beach in Okinawa. Dubbed Love Day, it was the first day of the invasion of Okinawa. Neal was in the second wave of Marines to land on the beach.

Eighty years later, on the exact same date at the exact same time, Neal landed on Green Beach again.

This time, the beach was peaceful. Neal and his fellow service members did what they had to do back in 1945. Because of them, the island has known only peace for the past eighty years.

Neal's trip to Okinawa was sponsored by the Best Defense Foundation, a non-profit organization whose goal is: Taking Care of the Ones Who Took Care of Us. They take veterans back to the battlefields where they served.



photo credit: Best Defense Foundation

Neal traveled with Donnie Edwards, the founder of Best Defense. Accompanying them was a photographer and a doctor and Army Colonel (ret). The landing was only the beginning. They went to Camp Kinser, Shuri Castle, Sugar Loaf, and Yontan Air-

field. They ferried over to the island of Ie Shima where Ernie Pyle was killed.

During the trip, Neal made several speeches and met many people, including Steph Pawelski, who created the Okinawa Battle Sites Facebook page. [See the latest from Steph on page 6.]

Neal also met Peter Berg, who is directing the Mosquito Bowl movie for Netflix, along with some of the actors who will play Marines. They were in Okinawa touring the battle sites and taking photos. The actors were interested in hearing what Neal remembered about the characters they will be playing. [See more about the movie on the back cover.]

It was an amazing trip, and Neal had a wonderful time. We can't even begin to imagine...

- Carroll McGowan

# Let's Get Together!

## PLANNED ITINERARY

**Tuesday, September 30**

### **Arrival**

Look for everyone to be socializing in our meeting room. And be sure to pick up your name tag.

**Wednesday, October 1**

### **Early Afternoon Presentation**

Joe Hennessey, senior docent at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, will talk about the Battle of Okinawa. You'll also have an opportunity to ask him about the museum.

### **Buffet Dinner at the Comfort Inn Catered by Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que**

We expect the menu to include beef brisket, chicken, several sides — and lots of barbecue sauce, of course. We'll make sure there is plenty to eat for vegetarians. And plenty of napkins! The dinner is being generously donated by Kate McGuigan, daughter of the late Jim McGuigan (29th Mar-3-G). Thank you, Kate!

**Thursday, October 2**

### **Official Welcome to the National Museum of the Marine Corps (9:00 am sharp)**

If this doesn't fill you with pride and admiration for our Marine Corps, nothing will! Please note you will be responsible for getting to the museum on your own. We feel certain those without a car will be able to find a ride with someone, because we are a friendly and helpful bunch! And of course, there is always Uber and Lyft.

### **Pizza Dinner at the Comfort Inn**

This will be a simple, casual meal to afford maximum time for socializing on our final night. You can pay Sharon Woodhouse at the hotel — she takes cash or credit cards. We don't have a price yet, but we expect it to come in under \$10 a head.

**Friday, October 3**

### **Departure after Breakfast**

Time to say good bye until we meet again. Hugs are mandatory. Tears are optional.

## **IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE GET TOGETHER, YOU MUST READ THIS!**

We need to order food ahead of time,  
so if you want to eat dinner with us, you gotta let us know!  
We also need to know how to contact you in case there are any changes.

**Please complete the Registration Form on page 14** and mail it to Sharon Woodhouse. If that seems archaic, or just too darn hard, call Sharon and give her the info over the phone. Or email it to her. Or take a picture of the form and text it. Whatever is easiest for you.

Just do it by September 10. Better yet — do it now!

# Let's Get Together!

## 2025 SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION GET TOGETHER REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send it **by September 10<sup>th</sup>** to:

Sharon Woodhouse 12598 SW Dickson Street Tigard, OR 97224

– or – If you would prefer, you can email, call or text Sharon with this information at:

sjawoodhouse@gmail.com or (503) 799-4455

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Names \_\_\_\_\_

If Sixth Division Marine, Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

If Lineal Descendant, of whom \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Information** (please check the correct box):

\_\_\_\_\_ I have made a reservation at the Comfort Inn Near Quantico Main Gate North

\_\_\_\_\_ I am staying somewhere else

**Dinner Information** (please tell us how many will attend):

Wednesday, October 1 at 6:00 pm – Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que Dinner at the Comfort Inn

\_\_\_\_\_ number attending

*We thank Kate McGuigan for donating the cost of the dinner.*

Thursday, October 2 at 6:00 pm – Pizza Dinner at the Comfort Inn

\_\_\_\_\_ number attending

*Please plan to pay Sharon at the hotel. The price is tbd, but shouldn't be more than \$10 per person.*

**Emergency Contact Information**

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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**This section is ONLY for Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows who are flying in with NO younger family members and need help with transportation:**

Do you want us to pick you up and return you to the airport? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your airline, flight # and arrival date and time:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your airline, flight # and departure date and time for your flight home:

\_\_\_\_\_

# 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:

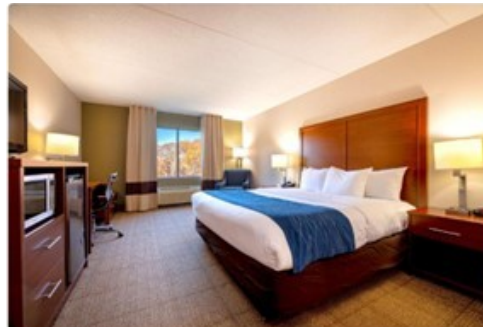
<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/EK40S2>

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



top: breakfast area, bottom: pool

### Distance from DC Airports

Reagan Washington National Airport

30 miles, allow at least 1 hour

Dulles International Airport

35 miles, allow at least 1 hour

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

### QUESTIONS???

If you have any questions about our get together, please call, text or email  
Sharon Woodhouse  
(503) 799-4455  
[sjwoodhouse@gmail.com](mailto:sjwoodhouse@gmail.com)

# Sixth Marine Division Association

439 Chalfonte Drive, Catonsville, MD 21228



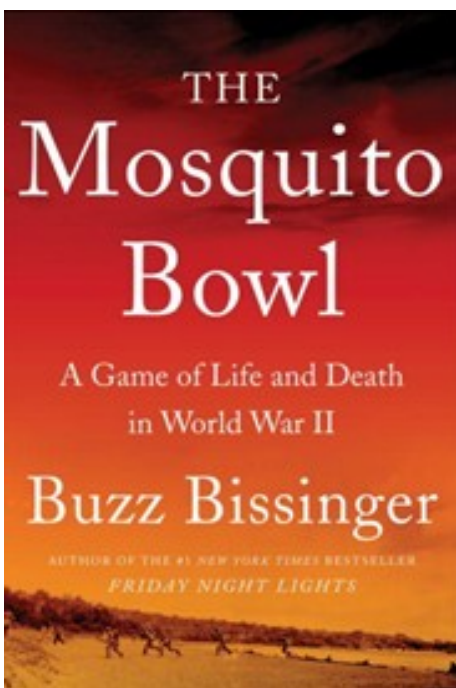
Striking Sixth Newsletter

Summer 2025

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## Netflix Gives Go Ahead to *Mosquito Bowl* Movie!



Buzz Bissinger's book about the Mosquito Bowl, a game played by two regiments of the Sixth Marine Division on Christmas Eve 1944, is coming to your television set. Peter Berg, who directed both the movie and TV series *Friday Night Lights* (based on the book authored by Bissinger), will direct the film.

The *Mosquito Bowl* movie will follow the stories of four key players in the game — Dave Schreiner, Bob Bauman, Tony Butkovich and John McLaughry.

Berg is currently in Australia working on pre-production. Shooting will begin there in late August or early September and is expected to take 70 days.

Also in the works, is a possible companion documentary. In June, a film crew interviewed Neal McCallum (29th Mar-2-F), to whom the *Mosquito Bowl* book is dedicated. As of print time, Netflix had not yet given the green-light to the documentary.