

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



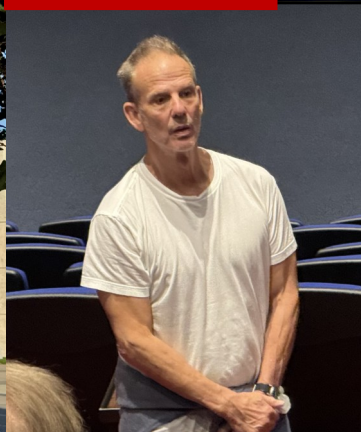
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Fall 2026



Mini-Reunion
is a
Smash
Hit!



We saw *The Mosquito Bowl*!!! Just one of many things that made this reunion special.

See pages 2-9 for more photos

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Mini-Reunion

On Wednesday, we headed over to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, where we broke into groups for our own special tours led by museum docents.

- 1) Gathering in the rotunda before the tours
- 2) Steph Pawelski and Laura Lacey
- 3) Rick Willauer and Frank McBride
- 4) Mike and Matt Maresh
- 5) Lisa Benedetti and Marilyn & Max Santiago
- 6) Division Historian Laura Lacey provides insight to a tour group





Mini-Reunion

After the tour, we enjoyed a lunch buffet, followed by a private screening of *The Mosquito Bowl* in the Museum's Medal of Honor theater. What better place to see the movie! With an intro from Buzz Bissinger (author of the book) and Peter Berg (director)!

At the reception afterwards, everyone wanted to talk to Neal McCallum! (29th Mar-2-F) Even Peter Berg! Fortunately, Peter also found time to socialize and take pictures with us.



1) Lunch before the movie

2) Buzz Bissinger and Peter Berg introduce *The Mosquito Bowl* in the Medal of Honor Theater

3) Buzz Bissinger, Mary Brauer, Neal McCallum, David Hilner, Phuong Riles and Peter Berg

4-5) Neal McCallum and Peter Berg



1 We were honored to have relatives of two of the Sixth Division Marines featured in *The Mosquito Bowl* join us at the reunion. Patti Margaron is Bob Baumann's niece, and Judy Corfield is Dave Schreiner's niece. Also attending were Sally Shepherd and Letitia Ord, granddaughters of Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr, commanding general of the Sixth Marine Division.

Mini-Reunion



- 1) Relatives of Bob Baumann: Alaina, Matthew, Brett, Patti and Frank Margaron; Abigail and Sam St Gean; Amani Margaron and Joel St Gean.
- 2) Buzz Bissinger, Peter Berg and Neal McCallum
- 3) Sally Shepherd and Letitia Ord with Peter Berg
- 4) Zack Wolf and Bob McGowan

Mini-Reunion



- 1) Peter Berg and Judy Corfield
- 2) Buzz Bissinger, Connie Houseweart, Peter Berg, Sharon Woodhouse and Neal McCallum
- 3) Max & Marilyn Santiago
- 4) Bob & Carroll McGowan, Peter Berg and Neal McCallum
- 5) Peggy Warner and Mike Senko

Mini-Reunion

Back at the hotel Wednesday night we had Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que for dinner while Connie showed us a very special knife (see page 9). Then Laura Lacey

introduced Steph Pawelski, who gave a short talk about her ten years on Okinawa and her Facebook page "Okinawa Battle Sites." She was inspired to learn about the battle by her grandfather, Joseph Sierocinski, who fought with the Sixth Marine Division in that battle.



- 1) Randy & Donna Bremer
- 2) Garry & Dori Mueller
- 3) Buzz Bissinger and Lisa Smith
- 4) Gillian Martin and Patty Payne
- 5) Jim & Melanie Rigby
- 6) Dan Petriello and Maria Geserick
- 7) Jack & Susan Linscott



1



2



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Thursday was time for relaxation and fun. Laura gave a fascinating presentation on the Battle of Okinawa and the legacy of the Sixth Marine Division that blew us all away. After an all-you-can-eat pizza dinner, a trivia game tested our knowledge of World War II, the year 1945, and the US Marine Corps. Turns out our group is pretty smart!

- 1) Joe & Anita Muccia
- 2) Phuong Riles and Neal McCallum
- 3) Melanie Rigby and Mary Brauer
- 4) Frank & Sherri McBride
- 5) Patti Margaron and Judy Corfield wearing Wisconsin football attire. Judy's letter sweater actually belonged to Dave Schreiner!
- 6) Sharon Woodhouse and Dolores and Kenny Bertram
- 7) Rich, Nathan and Jack Bertram

Mini-Reunion



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6



7



Mini-Reunion

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Lynn Setzer and Randall Washington | 5) Mike Senko and Lisa Benedetti |
| 2) Cynthia LaSota and Donna Franke | 6) Scott Williams and Sheila & Larry Eason |
| 3) Laura, Ryan and Janey Lacey | 7) Jack Linscott and Connie Houseweart |
| 4) David Hilner and Connie Houseweart | |

Sixth Marine Division Grandson Gets an Amazing Custom-Made Gift!

Last year, Connie Houseweart received a phone call from a number she did not recognize. It was Brian Fontenot from Louisiana. He shared two facts about himself: He is a fan of the Sixth Marine Division, and his hobby is making knives.

Brian had a mission he hoped Connie would accept. He wanted to make a knife for a child or grandchild of a Sixth Marine Division veteran who is currently serving in the Marine Corps. Connie couldn't think of anyone off the top of her head, but David Hilner overheard the conversation and suggested Joe Petriello. Joe is the grandson of the late Sam Petriello (15th Mar-4-L), President of the Association from 2011-2014. Some of you will remember Joe as a high school student accompanying Sam to the 2015 and 2016 reunions. While there, he talked about his plans to become a Marine just like the grandfather he adored.

Connie brought the knife to the reunion, and we can attest that it is a masterpiece! Brian also made a personalized leather sheath for the knife. On the front is Joe's name with the globe and anchor, and on the back is Sam's name and unit info.



Mini-Reunion

Watson Crumbie's Smoking Jacket is in the Museum!

At our 50th reunion in Fredericksburg in 2021, Watson Crumbie (29th Mar-1-C) made a donation to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. It was an embroidered smoking jacket he acquired while serving in Tsingtao, China after the Japanese surrendered.

Imagine our excitement when we saw it displayed in the museum with a plaque stating it was "Donated by Mr. Watson Crumbie."

He would have been so pleased!



A Statement About *The Mosquito Bowl* from Director, Peter Berg



Peter Berg talking with Neal McCallum

Herbert Hoover once said, "Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow, and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war." That idea has never left me.

For much of my career I've been drawn to people who put themselves in harm's way. I've lived with Navy SEALs, soldiers and first responders. I've watched the discipline, the humor, the heroism, the loyalty, and the quiet burden they shoulder. The time I've spent with them has left me with one overwhelming feeling: admiration.

What has also stayed with me is the understanding that these young men and women don't decide whether a nation goes to war. They answer the call. If their country asks them to go, they go. They leave their loved ones, they train, they

serve, and many tragically make the ultimate sacrifice.

When nations go to war, it is the young who carry the burden onto the battlefield. This was true for the brave young men who fought in World War II, and it is every bit as true today. That truth is at the heart of *The Mosquito Bowl*.

This is a film about young men who were sports heroes at home and became war heroes on the shores of the Pacific. They were athletes, sons, teammates and rivals, brothers, friends and husbands who laughed together, competed together and dreamed together about a future that war interrupted. I wanted to tell their story through that lens, so the audience could stand where they stood: unprepared, unknowing, and asked to face it anyway. My hope is that viewers leave with two feelings that can exist at the same time: profound respect for the courage of those who serve, and a renewed appreciation for the enormous responsibility that comes with sending them into war. If we ask the young to risk everything on our behalf, then we also have a responsibility to honestly understand the price they pay.

The Mosquito Bowl honors the humanity of those who fought, mourns those who never came home and reminds us of the true cost of war.

Reunion Donations — Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated money, drinks, auction items and trivia prizes, as well as those who arrived a day early to buy refreshments and set up the meeting room:

Lisa Benedetti
Dolores Bertram
David Hilner
Connie Houseweart
Cynthia LaSota

Carroll & Bob McGowan
Patty Payne
Rick Willauer
Sharon Woodhouse

Special Thanks to:

Sloane Whitaker for donating the cost of the barbecue dinner in honor of her father, Dick Whitaker (29th Mar-2-F), and

Sallie Shepherd for donating the cost of the pizza dinner on behalf of her grandfather, General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., in honor of his beloved Sixth Division Marines.

Message from the President



Another successful get-together this year. Many more new faces that have joined our family. I can't

thank each and everyone of you enough for joining us this year and hopefully in the future.

How about the preview of *The Mosquito Bowl* at the National Museum of the Marine Corps?

Special thanks to Netflix, the Museum, Buzz Bissinger, and Peter Berg for making that happen. A very special thanks to Bob and Carroll McGowan for being the liaisons for this event.

Laura Lacey was outstanding with her presentation. She really captured the audience's attention. If you visited with Steph Pawelski, you would have heard her talk about her adventures on Okinawa. Thank you, ladies, for your presentations.

Last but not least to mention would be the board members that helped put all this together: Sharon Woodhouse, Bob McGowan, Carroll McGowan, Lisa Benedetti, Patty Payne and myself.

I hope everyone had a good time making new friends and acquaintances. I know I did.

Till the next time, stay safe and healthy.

~Connie

Editor's Note



As I write this in late October, I am still basking in the glow of another wonderful reunion. It's so enjoyable getting together

with old friends, and it's a pleasure to meet new people who are part of the Sixth Marine Division family.

We were incredibly fortunate to get an early screening of *The Mosquito Bowl*. Many thanks to Buzz Bissinger, Peter Berg, Netflix and the National Museum of the Marine Corps for making it happen. They all went above and beyond to make it a meaningful experience for our group. I think everyone was surprised that Peter Berg did not fit anyone's stereotype of "Hollywood." He

was warm and gracious and spent a lot of time with us. Of course, we already knew that Buzz is a fun and friendly guy who defies any stereotypes. All of us in the Association are grateful for Buzz and Peter's efforts to tell the world what the men of the Sixth Marine Division sacrificed for us.

How wonderful to meet the family members of Bob Baumann and Dave Schreiner, two of the men portrayed in the movie whose lives were cut so short. And how wonderful to learn they have not been forgotten.

Special thanks to Laura Lacey who gave the best presentation on World War II I have ever heard. What a gift she has for teaching! Her discussion of the country, the generation that met

the challenges of World War II, the battle of Okinawa, and the legacy of the men who fought it captivated us all.

Finally, thank you to Steph Pawelski who told us about her interest in the Sixth Marine Division and what the battle of Okinawa means to her. We look forward to hearing more about her explorations on Okinawa in the future.

I hope *The Mosquito Bowl* film is well received and that the movie and the book continue to keep the legacy of the Sixth Marine Division alive. Every one of those men sacrificed so much, and they should be remembered and honored forever.

~Carroll McGowan

From the Historian's Corner

THE LEGACY OF THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION

What a wonderful reunion! It was a pleasure to spend time with old friends and make new ones. One of the highlights was the privilege of seeing *The Mosquito Bowl* at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and meeting their descendants. What a remarkable story! It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet Steph Pawelski and learn about all the great work she has been doing for the Sixth Marine Division. I am sure we will hear more from her in the future!

One thing that particularly struck me during the reunion was how respectful the young people in attendance were and how eager they were to hear the stories of their ancestors. I have thought about that quite a bit since returning home.

Not every child or grandchild may be interested in attending a reunion, but what if just one of them, given the opportunity to

hear these stories, came away with a deeper understanding of that extraordinary generation—the World War II generation? These men did so much for our nation and for the world in which they lived. Their sacrifices, experiences, and stories deserve to be remembered and passed on.

I believe this is the Association's next great challenge. We must find ways to engage the next generation. Otherwise, we risk not only losing the Association itself but also allowing the remarkable stories of this very unique division to fade away.

So, I ask you: Where are your Sixth Marine Division keepsakes, photographs, letters, and other mementos that belonged to your father or grandfather? Do your children and grandchildren know what these items mean to you and to your family? Do they know the stories behind them?



Find just one person to share a story with. That is all it takes to begin passing our history on to the next generation. One story can spark an interest, create a connection, and inspire someone to learn more.

As Ernie Fletcher once said, *"Education is our greatest opportunity to give an irrevocable gift to the next generation."*

Let us make sure the legacy of the Sixth Marine Division lives on — not only in our memories, but in the hearts and minds of those who come after us.

~Laura H. Lacey

**Donations —
Thank You!**

GENERAL FUND

Craig J. Bower

Jonathan D. Lynch

**WE WISH EVERYONE
A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING,
A HAPPY HANUKKAH,
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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.

Bower, Doris	wife of Clyde Bower	10/01/25
Platte, Harlan W.	29th Marines	01/04/26
Skeath, Marvin A. Jr.	4th Mar-HQ-HQ	09/29/26
Weston, Ralph D.	22nd Mar-2-E	07/22/26

Reporting Deaths

Please report deaths as soon as possible to:

Patty Payne

Membership Chair

(410) 978-2979

pjpayne1984@verizon.net

Marvin Skeath (1921-2026)



It is with a heavy heart that the family of LtCol. Marvin Skeath announces his passing. He lived to be the in-

credible age of 104 years old or as he would say 105 "womb" time.

It all started on October 20, 1921, when Marv was born in Catasauqua, Pennsylvania. For four or five years, Marv lived in Catasauqua before the Skeath family moved to Bristol, Pennsylvania. He was only eight years old when the Great Depression began. Like most people, the Skeath family were deeply affected by the Depression. They did not have a radio or a telephone, so one way to entertain themselves was to sing songs on Saturday evenings. During the summer, Marv worked different jobs to help his family.

At just 16 years old, Marv graduated from Bristol High School. He continued his education at Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades to learn the art of bricklaying. While attending Williamson, he met the love of his life – Anna Mary Kelley.

Marv worked as a bricklayer before he answered the call to serve his country when the world needed him most. In 1942, he joined the United States Marine Corps and underwent boot camp at Parris Island. Marv was then sent to Quantico for Field Telephone School. The day after he was promoted to Corporal, he married Anna! Not long after, Marv was selected for the Officer Candidate program and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

From October 1944 to March 1945, Marv was stationed at Guadalcanal, and this was where he witnessed the Mosquito Bowl! Months later, he landed on Okinawa with the 4th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division. After the Battle of

Okinawa, Marv and the 4th Marines landed on Japan.

Following WWII, Marv decided to stay with the Marine Corps and make it a career. Marv and Anna had two wonderful children, Terry and Kelley. In 1953, he was recalled to active duty and served in Korea as a Major with the 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Marv retired from the Marine Corps in 1966. He then worked for the Department of Defense and took many trips to Europe.

Marv and Anna lived a peaceful life in a waterfront home and spent many days and nights cruising in their boat. In 1998, they moved to Westminster Village in Dover, Delaware where he continued to make many friends. Marv lived a rich, fulfilling and memorable life. His legacy and the impact he made on his family and friends will never be forgotten. The memories we have with Marv will forever be cherished.

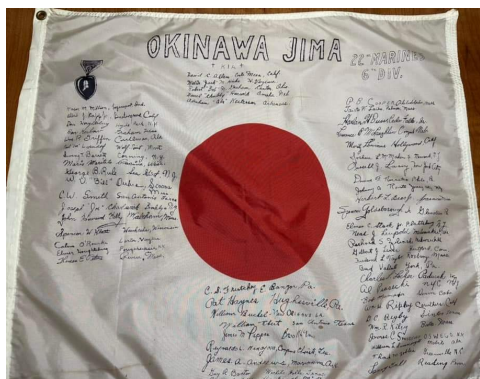
~Zack Wolf

MAIL CALL



Pay Haynes (22nd Mar-3-HQ)

Thanks to **Connie Houseweart** for the photo of the flag her father Pat Haynes (22nd Mar-3-HQ) brought home from Okinawa (pictured below).



Albert E. Leone (6MarDiv)

My grandfather Albert E. Leone passed away when I was around 2½ years old, so I didn't get a chance to know him, although I have been told by everyone that I look very much like him and have similar mannerisms (the greatest compliment in the world). I have recently uncovered a treasure trove of artifacts from his time in the service. Below is a picture of my grandfather with members of his team holding a flag he got on Okinawa in 1945.

Chris Fay

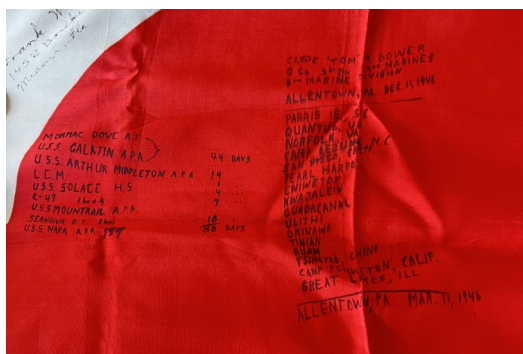


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Clyde R. Bower (29th Mar-3-G)

My father, Clyde R. Bower, was wounded on Okinawa and evacuated to Tinian. After recovering from shrapnel wounds he received (in at the shoulder, out on the back), he rejoined his outfit in Tsingtao, China. He died in 2016 at the age of 91. Below is a picture of Dad on the left holding a flag with another relative on the right. I'm also sending a view of the flag taken last week.

Craig Bower



Above: In the center of the flag, Mr. Bower wrote all the places he visited with the Marines: Parris Island, Quantico, Norfolk, Camp Lejeune, San Diego, Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Kwajalein, Guadalcanal, Ulithi, Okinawa, Tinian, Guam, Tsingtao and Camp Pendleton.

Dale Ellsworth Suttle Jr.

I am re-searching my relative Cpl Dale Ellsworth Suttle Jr who served with the 3rd Marine Raider Bn of the 1st Marine Raider Regiment and later with 4th Marines, 3rd Bn, L Company. He was KIA on Okinawa on April 2, 1945. He earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.



I'm especially interested in Company L photos, personal accounts from Marines who served alongside Dale, his Bronze Star citation, and any award or casualty documentation. If anyone has any photographs, records, or memories passed down from family members who served with the 3rd Raider Battalion or Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, I would be grateful to hear from you.

Semper Fi,
Ashley Robinson
a.srobinson@yahoo.com
917-742-6479



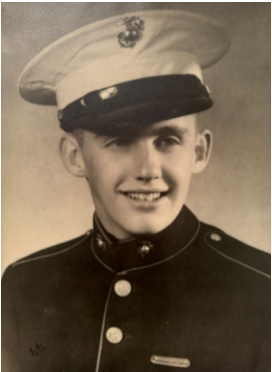
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MAIL CALL



Happy 100th Birthday, John Morgan!!!

We are happy to report that Sixth Division Marine John Morgan turned 100 on July 24, 2026! When he was 18, he was in the battle for Sugar Loaf Hill with 22nd Mar-2-G. See photos then and now below.



Sugar Loaf Photos

The photos of Sugar Loaf Hill (right and below) were taken by Sixth Marine Division combat photographer SSGT David Peskin on May 23, 1945. They were sent to us by his son, Todd Preston.



Harry Jacobsen Sr. (6MarDiv)

Christopher Hall would like to know if anyone has any information about his grandfather, Harry Jacobsen Sr, who fought in the battle for Sugar Loaf Hill. He would have turned 100 in June, but he passed away on the Marine Corps birthday in 2018.

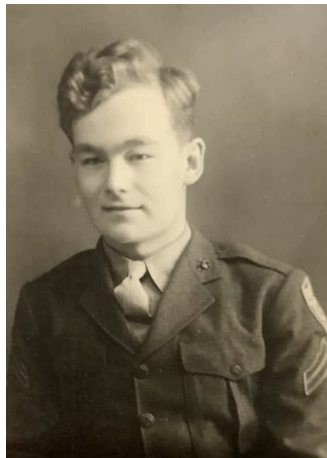
Christopher Hall



Okinawa Museum

The Battle of Okinawa Historical Display is at Camp Kinser on Okinawa. It holds battlefield recoveries and other unique items from the battle. (See photo below.) Many have been donated by veterans who fought in that battle, predominantly Sixth Marine Division veterans.

Chris Majewski, the Director, also gives tours of Okinawa. Look for more information on Chris in the spring 2027 Striking Sixth



Sixth Marine Division Association

439 Chalfonte Drive, Catonsville, MD 21228



Striking Sixth Newsletter

Fall 2026

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THE MOSQUITO BOWL

OPENS IN SELECT THEATERS OCTOBER 30; BEGINS STREAMING ON NETFLIX NOVEMBER 25



Based on the
book by
BUZZ BISSINGER

Directed by
PETER BERG

Screenplay by
PETER BERG and
MARK L. SMITH

Starring:

BILL SKARSGÅRD
as Bob Baumann

TOM FRANCIS
as Dave Schreiner

RAY NICHOLSON
as Tony Butkovich

NICHOLAS GALITZINE
as John McLaughry