

STRIKING SIXTH

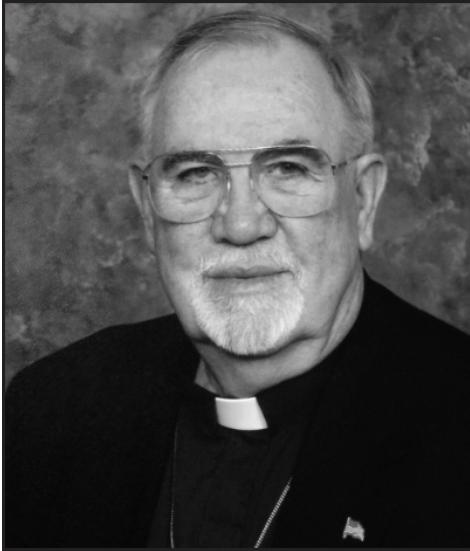
1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



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Winter 2008



Rev. Frank Mack III —The Sixth Marine Division Assn. chaplain was hospitalized in early November with pancreatic cancer. His wife Nancy notified former President Ed Marsalek with a request that there should be no telephone calls but cards and notes will be appropriate. Rev. Frank Mack began hospice care in late November. A former Corpsman with the 22nd Marines, he had extensive combat experience. Related article on Page 5.



Final Journey

Paulie DeMeis, Fourth Marines, His Time For Heaven's Scene.

More on pages 14 and 15

Under Strength (and old) Marines Will Advance to Myrtle Beach, SC

The Sixth Marine Division is under strength but still advancing. Objective, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Division Commander Andrew Sinatra promises high times when we arrive at our destination on 60 miles of sandy white beaches along the beautiful, blue Atlantic Ocean. Andy says we had all of the Pacific Ocean we needed years ago; the Atlantic will be the choice for our next reunion in late October 2009.

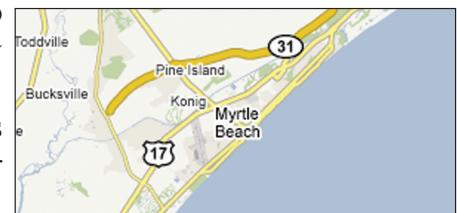
The actual schedule calls for landing Tuesday, Oct. 26. Action will continue through Sunday, Nov. 1, according to Marydel Gaiser, chief of Marydel Military Reunion Services.

That's kind of late in the year, but that's when rates are lowest, and the Chamber
Continued on Page 4

One of Best In Recent History

WOW — what a great Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion we had in Oklahoma City this year! Joan Willauer, Pam Bloustone and Brenda Blair worked diligently to be sure all the needs and cares of the reunion attendees were taken care of efficiently and effectively

Continued on Page 3





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All Four Are Marines

Retired or just plain honorably discharged, these four are still Marines according to the old saying. They are, from left, Pam Bloustone, Gen. Magnus, Joan Willauer and Brenda Blair. The three former lady Marines ran the successful 2008 Reunion in Oklahoma City. The general, who was only one step away from running the Marine Corps before his recent retirement, gave a showstopper of a speech at the last night banquet.

The "Striking Sixth" newsletter is an official publication of the Sixth Marine Division Association, 107 Grand Central Ave., PO Box 484, Lavalette, NJ 08735 and is published for members of the Association. "This is not a mailing address."

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Suggestions are welcome. Submissions should be sent to the editor, Joe Singleton, 251 S Green Valley Pkwy #4813 Henderson, NV 89012, phone: (512) 695-4295, email: joe.semperhorn@gmail.com

President's Message



Andy Sinatra

There is good, and there is bad. I'll start off with the bad. Carl Sproatt, our service officer, is lost to us, and our chaplain Rev. Frank Mack is in danger from pancreatic cancer.

Frank McCormick and several others have died. Fortunately, Vince Mathews has stepped into the breach for Carl, which doesn't lessen the loss of a good friend but does keep a key office functioning. We'll keep you posted about Rev. Frank.

Otherwise, we are moving right along. The Oklahoma Reunion was well received. Plans for Myrtle Beach are progressing. Marydel Gaiser has proved in the past that she knows her business. She will do an effective job running the reunion. I hope to do as well with the association. For me to do that, though, you'll need to let me know what you want and how you want it.

— Semper Fi,

Andy Sinatra, president

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Walter Heuer	4 th Marines
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Andy Sinatra	22 nd Marines
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Dick Roberts	6 th JASCO
George Tremblay	1 st Amphibs

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Joe Singleton, Chairman

Tom Terpinas

Membership Manager

Florence Dornan

One of Best from page 1

with a minimum of effort or waiting.

The reunion began for all who flew when we were met at the airport by members of the local Marine Corps League and/or Joan's friends and family members, escorted to our luggage and into a van to be driven to the hotel. Upon arriving at the hotel we were checked in and given information about the upcoming week. We were also presented with the GREATEST camouflage ditty bag filled with goodies along with a matching camouflage name badge holder.

The first event was a "Meet and Greet" sponsored by the OK Marine Corps Coordinating Council and the Women Marines Association. They provided the reunion goers free hot appetizers, sandwiches and top shelf liquor and soft drinks. It was a wonderful welcome to us all, and gave us a chance to reconnect with each other in a pleasant relaxed atmosphere. We moved from the Atrium to the Hospitality Room, open daily from 9 am until closing—late at night for some of us!

Our stay at the Biltmore Hotel provided each reunion participant with a free breakfast each morning, and it was a great way to start each day. The staff of the hotel was both pleasant and efficient, and made our visit such a pleasure.

Wednesday morning, after breakfast, we were ready to hop on a bus to take a tour of beautiful Oklahoma City. Each bus had a guide provided: Brenda Blair, Pam Bloustone, and Grady Rainbow of the MCL, who were so knowledgeable about the city's attractions. There was a bus provided for those with disabilities, which was without the inconvenience of unboarding and reboarding at each site along the way. Among the stops was the 45th Infantry Division Museum where we enjoyed hearing an explanation of its history, and were given an opportunity to view the many artifacts and examine all the exhibits of the museum. Another stop was the Murrah Building Memorial, which was very poignant and dramatic visit for

us all. The tour's lunch at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum was a great buffet, well enjoyed by all the tour members. We stopped at the gift shop on our way to rejoin the tour. After reboarding the buses, our tour of the city sights continued and also made some stops to provide us with added shopping.

Once back at the hotel we were able to join others in the Hospitality Room, have a cocktail, relax, or clean up and change before our Oklahoma City "Country Wing Ding" began. The Marine Corps provided buses and drivers to take us to the American Legion Post 73 in Del City, which included a GREAT BBQ, Country Western Dance Classes, Karaoke and GREAT ENTERTAINMENT by Darlin' Darla Morgan, a local celebrity with the Oklahoma Opry. (Be sure to ask Jack Walker about Darla! She seemed to enjoy teasing Jack.) The Sixth Marine Division Association was honored by local dignitaries, and everyone appreciated the warm welcome we received. The City of Del City had a beautiful banner made and the Mayor and City Manager presented a Proclamation to President Ed Marsalek recognizing the Heroes of the Battle of Okinawa. Another proclamation, from the State of Oklahoma, was presented to Ed by State Senator Jim Reynolds and Representative Scott Inman. Both gentlemen spoke of how proud they were to be in the presence of the members of the "Striking Sixth."

Thursday arrived with another beautiful day in Oklahoma City. Activities for the day included a visit to Sgt Grit's Marine Specialties, and many reunion attendees enjoyed the opportunity to purchase all the Sixth Marine Division items that were specially ordered for our visit to OKC. Sgt Grit also provided free hat pins he made for the reunion.

Our evening's entertainment was a Native American Pow Wow, by authentic Indian dancers who put on a great show. It was a very delightful experience, and everyone especially enjoyed the children's dancing skills. There were

many door prizes distributed at this event and throughout the week.

Friday the Board Meeting took place at 10 a.m. At noon, the Sixth Marine Division Association Women's Auxiliary Luncheon was held, and we had a great lunch followed by an amusing and rousing speech by Major General Rita Aragon USAF (Ret).

Both Thursday and Friday the reunion attendees had some free time to check out the varied sites and all the interesting areas in Oklahoma City—possibly going to view the Botanical Gardens, the Museum of Art, using the Trolley system or taking a river cruise!

Saturday there were several activities. The first was our Memorial Service, which began at 8:30 a.m. Reverend Frank Mack presented a moving and poignant service with Tom Terpinas ringing the bell. We will miss the many people that passed away this year. After the Memorial Service the Men's meeting was held. There was Catholic Mass later that day for all the members who wished to attend.

After a relaxing afternoon, we joined each other for our final activity, the Reception/Social Hour and the Grand Banquet, which closed our annual reunion. After an excellent dinner, our guest speaker, General Robert Magnus USMC (Ret), whose last assignment was Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. He gave an insightful and thought-provoking speech that had us all on our feet with a standing ovation at the finish.

To top off the dinner, there was music, and we danced the night away. Even George Schadt was dancing in his wheelchair! The General's wife, Rose, got some of the ladies up on the dance floor for "New York, New York" and a chorus line ensued. A great night was had by all. In my opinion, this reunion will go down as one of the best. If you didn't attend, you sure missed a good time!

— Joyce Staerkel
Sixth Marine Division Auxiliary

Under Strength from page 1

of Commerce maintains that "a touch of warm sea breezes and... mild temperatures...provide beautiful weather year round." The chamber also has calculated that average October temperatures are air 76, water 74.

Marydel is still working out the details, but everything will be in place by spring. The Striking Sixth will have the forms and complete information in our next issue due out in late April. Tentatively, we will stay in the Beach Cove Resort, a hostelry by the water that's full of amenities: restaurant, grill, bars, pool, heated pools, hot tub, the works. There are more than a hundred golf courses in the area. Arrangements can be made at the hotel. There is also plenty of shopping.

Marydel has worked with us before in assisting John Foley. We are using professional help altogether this time because there is no member on the East Coast that we know of who is able to put on a reunion at this time of our lives. Marty Essex offered Vegas again if no other location could be found, but the chosen site

isn't a bad idea. If you will look at your membership directory you will see that most of our members live in the eastern United States.

As part of the Grand Strand, Myrtle Beach is part of sixty miles of sandy white beaches along the beautiful, blue Atlantic Ocean which is your playground for fun, excitement, and relaxation.



***Marydel Gaiser
Reunion Coordinator***

Marines

From: "Rev. Frank Mack" <revfjmcorpsman@frontiernet.net>
To: <jimfran@sbcglobal.net>
Cc: "Harvey Anderson" <andy0723@hickorytech.net>; "Bev & Rocco" <rocbev2@aol.com>; "Carl J. Sproatt" <cjsandddodie@columbus.rr.com>; "Edward Marsalek" <marsalek@urbancom.net>; "Florence R. Dornan" <Sxthmardiv@aol.com>; <GYRENE629@aol.com>; "Jack Rice" <Jaxjack77@aol.com>; "Joe Singleton" <JoeS104183@aol.com>; "John Foley" <JOHNSFOLEY226@HOTMAIL.COM>; <JSW116@aol.com>; "Dick Whitaker" <FOX29REGT@aol.com>; "Pete Howell" <PIBOOT1944@BELLSOUTH.NET>; <BPAULEY1@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2008 10:48 PM
Subject: Father Frank McCormick

Dear Jim and Fran,

Word reached me this morning that your beloved brother, Father Frank, has answered his final roll call. After the news settled in, I couldn't help but think at that very moment there must be great rejoicing in heaven, for another saint has been welcomed home. Please accept my deepest and sincere sympathy on behalf of Frank's fellow Marines in the Sixth Marine Division Association.

A wonderful life here on earth has ended, but an even more glorious life has begun in heaven. Even though there will always be an empty place in our hearts, we know and believe in faith that Frank has already been welcomed home by our Lord, with the words, "Well done good and faithful servant, now enter into the joy I have prepared for you since the foundation of the world".

As a Navy corpsman, Frank served his brothers in the United States Marine Corps with the passion and zeal of one who was born with the gift of a gracious and compassionate heart. Those same attributes were evident in his calling as a Dominican priest of God. As I remember Frank, the words of an old saying come to mind. I think they fit him to a "tee". "My friends, although the world may scoff and jest, a life of service is the best, and happiness will always be, to him who serves humanity".

There is a special and unique bond between Marines who have served in combat and the corpsmen who have been part of their retrieval and recovery. Frank enjoyed this feeling of union with the men of Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 29th Marine Regiment. This bond extended to Frank's fellow corpsmen, who also will most assuredly, feel the pain and loss of his gregarious companionship.

Please be assured that our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you and your dear ones. We all feel sad about Frank's passing, but through our tears we rejoice that a well lived life has come to a close. You must have a lifetime of wonderful and exciting memories of your brother. I pray that you will keep these cherished memories alive and tender in your hearts, for they can be a great source of comfort during the lonely times that are bound to come.

Please extend the love and sympathy of Frank's many close friends and buddies in Fox Company, his fellow Marine corpsmen, and the entire Sixth Marine Division Association, to all the other members of his family, and also to his Dominican brother priests. May God bless each of you and heal your hearts with His everlasting peace and love. In conclusion, we all can say,

God be with you, Frank, until we meet again,
By His counsels, guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you, Frank, until we meet again.

Sleep well, dear friend, we'll see you soon.

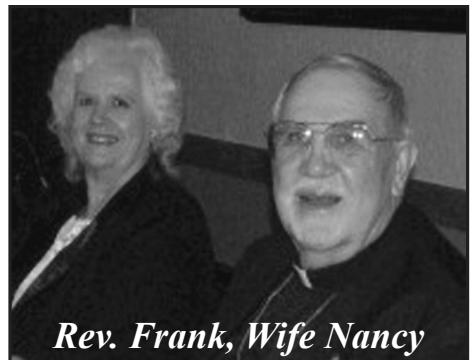
Semper Fidelis, in His Name and with His love,

Rev. Frank J. Mack, Chaplain
Sixth Marine Division Association

Chaplain's Column

By Rev. Frank J. Mack

Editor's Note — The Chaplain's Column will not appear in this issue because our Chaplain Rev. Frank Mack has been involved with some serious health issues since the Oklahoma City Reunion. In place of Rev. Frank's column, we are offering copies of condolences he sent recently to the families of two of his dearest friends. Included are letters to the family of Father Frank McCormick (F/2/29), who passed away in July and to the family of Carl Sproatt (also F/2/29), who passed away in August. Rev. Frank assures me he will keep us posted about his physical condition and that his Chaplain's Column will appear once more in the Spring edition of the Striking Sixth. In the meantime, he asks for and will appreciate all the prayer support you can give him.



Rev. Frank, Wife Nancy



Phone: 309-374-2274
E-Mail: revfjmcorsman@frontiernet.net

Mrs. Doris Sproatt
Groveport, Ohio

Our dearest Doris,

It has now been five days since Carl left us, and I still struggle to accept his passing. Each day my thoughts invariably turn to him as I realize how blessed I was to have known this wonderful man. I already miss his frequent e-mails and phone calls as we shared our thoughts about the Sixth Marine Division and often times just what has been happening in our lives and the lives of our families.

Nancy and I will always remember the first time we met in Springfield, Illinois back in April of 1996. Also at that first meeting were John and Jeannie and Virgil and Lucy. Our friendship has grown through the years and always invokes many fond memories. Our many visits to your home in Florida are among our warmest memories. I always looked forward to going to Captain Bell's for catfish. You and Carl always treated us royally and for that we will be forever grateful to you both.

We had hoped and prayed that Carl would recover or at least improve, but according to God's great and grand scheme of things, He has moved him from one life to another. Carl is by no means dead, he is just gone from our sight, and is very much alive. His spirit is not only alive, Doris, it is very close to you. You are tied to his spirit by the lifetime of love you shared with him. As I think of Carl, I'm reminded of the old saying, "Grieving is the price we pay for loving". In other words, we grieve in proportion to how much we love the person for whom we are grieving. We loved Carl very much.

You can be very proud of Carl's service to our country as a member of the United States Marine Corps during World War II. Our nation owes him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. His passing will be honored at our Memorial Service in Oklahoma City on September 20th. I plan to personally ring the bell loud and clear in Carl's memory. Dick Whitaker has also asked me to say a few words of tribute to Carl at the Fox Company dinner on Friday evening, September 19th, which I plan to do.

Doris, please know that many warm thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones. We all feel sad because of Carl's passing, and we join our hearts with yours as you grieve his death. I know you have many wonderful and exciting memories of your beloved husband, who now awaits an eternal reunion with you in heaven. I pray that you will keep these cherished and precious memories alive in your heart, for they will be a great source of comfort during the lonely times that are bound to come.

Nancy and I still plan to stop and stay with you on September 2nd, and take you out to dinner. Also, please give our love and sympathy to Jodie and Jeff, and to Eric and his family, and to Erin. Your beloved Carl meant very much to you, and you will always miss his loving presence. He was one of the finest persons I have ever known, and I too, will miss him. However, I'm sure I will see him again, where he will be busy guarding the golden streets of heaven. He will always be my brother Marine.

Semper Fidelis, with our love,

Frank and Nancy

* Okinawa * Makin * Solomons * Bougainville * Marshalls * Saipan * Guam * Japan * China * Samoa * Eniwetok *

Sam Petriello's Daughter One of Top 20 Teachers



Rev. Frank J. Mack, Chaplain
101 S. 6th St. P.O. Box 567
Keithsburg, IL 61442-0567

Nancy Petriello Barile has been named by the USA Today newspaper as one of the best 20 teachers in the nation. She teaches high school English in Revere, MA.

Nancy is the daughter of Sam Petriello, our own Judge Advocate and long-time member of the association.

USA names an All-USA Teacher team every year. The criteria are obviously very high. Each teacher is awarded \$2500 to share with the school.

Originally a paralegal, she began her teaching career at 35. She is 48. It had been a lifetime desire, she told her local newspaper.

"Nancy's a constant innovator," according to her department head. He added that the school has a large immigrant population with a majority on subsidized lunch programs. She keeps them interested in the subject matter, he said.

United States Marine Corps Birthday Message - 10 November 2008

1. During the summer of 1982, in the wake of a Presidential directive, Marines went ashore at Beirut, Lebanon. Fifteen months later, on 23 October 1983, extremists struck the first major blow against American forces - starting this long war on terrorism. On that Sunday morning, a suicide bomber drove an explosive-laden truck into the headquarters of battalion landing team 1/8, destroying the building and killing 241 Marines and Corpsmen.
2. Extremists have attacked our nation, at home and abroad, numerous times since that fateful day in Beirut. Their aim has always been the same - to kill as many innocent Americans as possible. The attacks of 11 September 2001 changed our nation forever, and our president has resolved that this nation will not stand idle while murderous terrorists plot their next strike. Marines will continue to take the fight to the enemy - hitting them on their own turf, crushing them when they show themselves, and finding them where they hide.
3. Only a few Americans choose the dangerous, but necessary, work of fighting our nation's enemies. When our chapter of history is written, it will be a saga of a selfless generation of marines who were willing to stand up and fight for our nation; to defend those who could not defend themselves; to thrive on the hardship and sacrifice expected of an elite warrior class; to march to the sound of the guns; and to ably shoulder the legacy of those marines who have gone before.
4. On our 233rd birthday, first remember those who have served and those "angels" who have fallen - our reputation was built on their sacrifices. Remember our families; they are the unsung heroes whose support and dedication allow us to answer our nation's call. Finally, to all Marines and sailors, know that I am proud of you and what you do. Your successes on the battlefield have only added to our illustrious history. General Victor H. "Brute" Krulak said it best when he wrote, "... The United States does not need a Marine Corps ... The United States wants a Marine Corps." Your actions, in Iraq and Afghanistan, and across the globe, are at the core of why America loves her Marines.
5. Happy Birthday, Marines and Semper Fidelis! James T. Conway, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps

**"Some People spend an entire lifetime
wondering if they made a difference.
The Marines don't have that problem."**

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Guess that just says it all...Happy Birthday to each of you. There is a Celebration at 1630 today (Nov. 10)/Steeds Compound/Tun Tavern, and we will raise our glasses to each and every one of you in tribute to the nation's finest. Semper Fi, Bill and Jean Steed

Japanese Friend Of Buzzy's Dies

Another chapter in the Okinawa Memorial story has ended. Edward (Buzzy) Fox, G-2-22 and former president of this association, reports that Yoshio Yazaki has died. He was the Japanese partner in the building and dedication of the Garden of Remembrance on Okinawa.

"We were an odd couple," Buzzy said, "A Japanese naval officer and a pfc machine gunner, who became friends. Also, it was never really explained to me how he knew that I had initiated a plan for a memorial on the island we had fought over."

However he knew about it, he reached Buzzy through Gen. Shepherd, and the two worked together to bring the memorial to fruition. Yoshio visited Buzzy in New Jersey, who in turn visited his friend in Tokyo.

The letter informing of his death also mentioned that Yoshio had been suffering from Alzheimer's for some years. Buzzy relates that had he known, he would have flown to Tokyo if only to say "Good bye and thank you."

"Yoshio and I found a peace bond with each other whose only mission was to honor our dead," Buzzy said.

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The Sands of Christmas

I had no Christmas spirit when I breathed a weary sigh,
And looked across the table where the bills were piled too high.
The laundry wasn't finished and the car I had to fix,
My stocks were down another point, the Dolphins lost by six.
And so with only minutes till my son got home from school,
I gave up on the drudgery and grabbed a wooden stool.
The burdens that I carried were about all I could take,
So I flipped the TV on to catch a little break.
I came upon a desert scene in shades of tan and rust,
No snowflakes hung upon the wind, just clouds of swirling dust.
And where the reindeer should have stood before a laden sleigh,
Eight hummers ran a column right behind an M1A.
A group of boys walked past the tank, not one was past his teens,
Their eyes were hard as polished flint, their faces drawn and lean.
They walked the street in armor with their rifles shouldered tight,
Their dearest wish for Christmas, just to have a silent night.
Other Marines gathered, hunkered down against the wind,
To share a scrap of mail and dreams of going home again.
There wasn't much at all to put their lonely hearts at ease,
They had no Christmas turkey, just a pack of MRE's.
They didn't have a garland or a stocking I could see,
They didn't need an ornament — they lacked a Christmas Tree.
They didn't have a present even though it was tradition,
The only boxes I could see were labeled "ammunition."
I felt a little tug and found my son now by my side,
He asked me what it was I feared, and why it was I cried.
I swept him up into my arms and held him oh so near.
I kissed him on the forehead as I whispered in his ear.
There's nothing wrong, my little son, for safe we sleep tonight,
our heroes stand on foreign land to give us all the right
To worry about the things in life that mean nothing much at all,
Instead of wondering each day if we will be the next to fall.
He looked at me as children do and said it's always right,
To thank the ones who help us and perhaps that we should write.
And so we pushed aside the bills and sat to draft a note,
To thank the many far from home, and this is what we wrote,
God bless you all and keep you safe, and speed your way back home.
Remember that we love you so and that you're not alone.
The gift you give, you share with all, a present every day,
You give the gift of liberty and that we can't repay.

(Poem Courtesy of Jack Rice, 6th Med. Bn. Author Not Named)

You've Forgotten the War, Here's the Book for You

I asked Private Partz, the legendary Devil Dog, who showed up briefly this morning, for Christmas suggestions. There is a book he said which would be suitable for aged Marines who have forgotten they were in a war. "This is the best firsthand account of island warfare in the PTO: *WITH THE OLD BREED AT PELELIU AND OKINAWA* by the late E. B. Sledge. "Sledgehammer" wrote it as a former member of K-3-5, First Marine Division. He minces no words and spares no pain. Sledge wrote, "The reality of battle was mud and mire with the stench of death filling the air. But, the bonds of friendship formed were never to be severed." Sixth Division Marines will find his 325-page book, difficult to put down."

"Hmmpf! He must have gotten that idea from *Military History Magazine*, which lists Sledge's book as one of the 10 best ever written about war. They rank it right up there with *War and Peace* and *The Iliad*. He could also have mentioned *Goodbye Darkness*, another book on the Okinawa Campaign, which almost made the cut. Not with Partz, however. Even though it was written by a wounded Sixth Division Marine who was there for most of it, the private and some others found it inadequate." — Major Cal Amity

A Note From the Auxiliary President:

Hi Ladies: I was so happy to see so many of you at the luncheon; as I promised it was fantastic. Our own Joan Willauer deserves all the credit. All I told her was to keep it simple and left the rest up to her.



Marion Bangert

Thank you, Joan, you and your committee. That was a job well done. I believe all of us appreciated the time and effort put in by a few on the entertainment as well as the luncheon for the benefit of all. A special thanks goes to Maj. Gen. Rita Aragon for her wonderful presentation. For such a tiny person she more than pulled her own weight, both physically and emotionally. God bless her!

Our donations are deeply appreciated by the Sixth Division, I know, and we are continuing them. A special executive meeting was called the Sunday morning before we left Oklahoma City and the Auxiliary donated a total of \$1250 for newsletter and directory purposes. We hope this meets with the approval of the general membership. The need was great and I did what I thought was best with the approval of the executive board.

To all of you again, thank you for putting your trust and faith in me. I will do my very best to be worthy of it.

I have done much since leaving Oklahoma and have been as busy as usual. With three great grand children there is never a dull day. Until we meet at Myrtle Beach in 2009, God Bless and keep each of you. Remember I love to hear from you, all of your ideas are very important to me, Semper Fi and love, Marion.

McGuigan Mentioned As Typical Leatherneck

The following is an excerpt from the book, *Gyrene*, subtitled *The World War II United States Marines*. Written by Wilbur D. Jones Jr., USNR (Ret), the following is found on Pages 39-40:

James A. McGuigan (Pfc, G/3/29). Born in Philadelphia, raised in Havertown, PA. Irish middle class. Motivation — to help my country. Enlisted USMC 1 November 1942 at the age of sixteen (16) years, sent to Parris Island, S.C. 1 February 1943. Some high school (Dropped out in Sr. year). Played baseball. No religion. 5'8.5", 140 pounds. Blond hair, blue eyes. Played the card game Hearts. Did not smoke or drink until service. Stayed single. Wrote home to family once a month and sent money home to mother. Drank beer with his buddies. No furloughs. Temptations were cursing and the opposite sex. Carried only toothbrush and shaver in his backpack. Was known as a hell raiser. Corps made him a hard worker. Received the Purple Heart and Presidential Unit Citation. Thing liked most: Winning. Liked least: Seeing friends get killed! Most memorable event: Okinawa's Sugar Loaf Hill, and all the men who were with him there. What got him through: Kept his head down and his eyes open. (Ed's Note: This information came from the Marine Corps League, Detachment 741, Newtown Square, PA., where James is listed as commandant.)

S/Ds On the Way To Membership In Association

The “Sons and Daughters” membership contingent has made significant progress over the past two years. A program initiated by Lt. Col. Jean Steed several years ago is finally coming to fruition. (You can see her work on the association’s website. Click on the “Sons and Daughters” link.)

At the Norfolk reunion in 2007, the board and membership conditionally approved bylaw amendments establishing the “Regular Associate Member Category” for lineal descendants of regular members. This category includes children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. Lineal descendants will be able to vote and hold office.

The bylaw amendments were conditionally approved because of potential tax consequences and possible changes to the Associations non-profit status. Past President Ed Marsalek investigated these issues and recommended retaining outside legal counsel to make recommendations. The board and membership approved funding for this at the 2008 reunion in Oklahoma City.

Ed hopes that bylaws can be fully implemented for the 2009 reunion in Myrtle Beach.

The lineal descendants have not been standing idly by. Connie Houseweart and her sister Gale with a long list of volunteers have managed and staffed the hospitality room at the two past reunions. Lisa Benedetti has prepared minutes for the board and membership meetings. Several officers have used lineal descendants as aides and even XO's.

Connie is chairperson of the Regular Associate Members. Please contact Connie if you need help from us “kids.” You will be surprised; some of us have grown up ☺! — Steve Vozella, S/Ds

S/Ds Are Renamed Lineal Descendants

Submitted by Anita Benedetti, daughter of PFC, Alie Benedetti, 22nd Marines

At the Oklahoma City Reunion of the 6th Division, returning sons and daughters mingled with 1st timers at a meeting held at the hotel on September 19, 2008. There were 21 of us.

During the first half of the meeting we were addressed by past, current, and future Association Officers. They assured us of their support and hoped for our continued participation. We, in turn, confirmed our sincere intentions to help in any way we could.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to discussion within the group of the process of becoming a legal entity within the 6th. We also talked about which son or daughter would be willing to fulfill the current “wish list” of the officers. And, YES!! Hands were raised; we had volunteers!

Further discussion revolved around a proper name for our group and who would help our contact person. We chose the name The Lineal Descendants of the 6th Marine Division because the phrase appears in the legal jargon being reviewed by lawyers. Instead of formally electing officers for our group, we opted to informally select people who would help our Chairperson, Ms. Connie Housewear, with various tasks throughout the coming year.

Please feel free to contact Connie about us; she'd love to hear from you. She's at: 258 Sechler Drive, Montoursville, PA 17754 or (570) 433-4402.

Best Wishes for a Good Year to our Moms and Dads from your Lineal Descendants!

CORPSMEN'S CORNER

Halt and Lame At Reunion Sick Bay

By Jack Rice, 6th Med. Bn.

Wow! What a great reunion! I'm still on a high from the fun, fellowship and esprit de corps at the wonderful meeting. OKLAHOMA was OK. The organizers of the reunion left nothing out. To them we extend our congratulations and thanks.

We had a good turnout of our Corpsmen with a Sick Bay meeting room which was well attended. New faces were there but we missed some of our regulars and hope that our next meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC will give those missing this one an opportunity to catch up with the rest of us. Mark your calendars for this event during October of 2009. Myrtle Beach will be a unique meeting place.

The facilities there are par excellence. (No pun intended with use of the word "par." There are over 100 golf courses in the Myrtle Beach area.) For you Wheel of Fortune fans, this is also the home town of Vanna White.

Our Sick Bay expenses this year were considerably higher than 2007 since we did not have a "donated" room. Never let it be said that we did not rise to the occasion. The raffle of the Complete History of the USMC book, donated by the late Corpsman Father Frank McCormick and the sale of the

shirts donated by our close friend Marine Tom McKinney, helped us go over the top with expenses. Our own members and the associate members attending the meeting were most generous in making donations to the overall expenses.

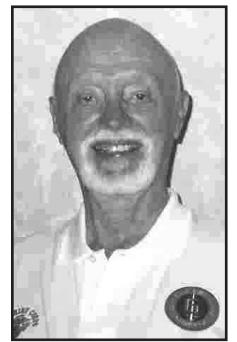
Suffice it to say we're still in the black. All of you are genuinely thanked for this.

By the way, the "History" was won by Mary Walker, wife of Robert, who lives in Burlington, NC. Congratulations!

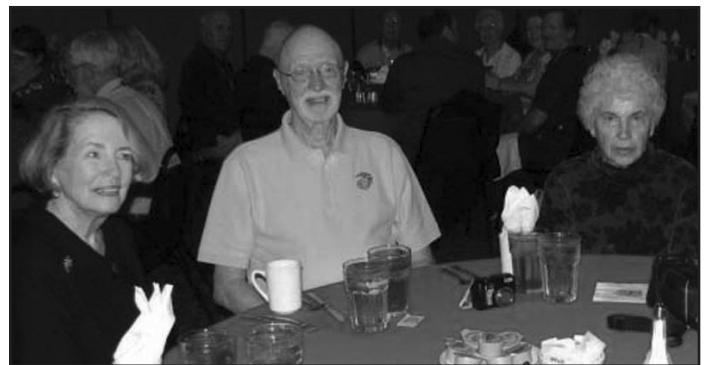
Sadly, we paid our last respects to four of our members who were transferred to Heaven's Scenes during this last year. These were Carl Sproatt, rifleman with the 29th. Carl, although not a Corpsman, kept our Corpsmen's group together for many years. He was a very unique person. Others were Wally O'Neil, a past president of the 6th Marine Division Association, Charles Gail, a SeaBee Corpsman attached to the Division and our beloved Father Frank McCormick of the 29th.

Our own, Frank Mack, Division Chaplain, was elected President-Elect of the Association. He always does us proud. Congrats, Frank.

As this is being written we find that we are entering a busy season of the year. Halloween and Thanksgiving have just passed. Christmas and New Years Day will follow closely. BUT, also of most importance, is the birthday of the Marine Corps. It, too, will be gone by the time you read this. So to each of you, the author wishes a Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and HAPPY BIRTHDAY. If I'm a little late for some, I'll double up on the others.



Jack Rice



Corpsman Spokesman — Jack Rice, center, speaks for the divisions' corpsmen in the Striking Sixth. His wife Ray is to our left, Anna Mae Peterson, wife of Don Peterson, is on the right.

Mail Call

Dear Joan: Just a note to thank you for a wonderful and exciting time in Oklahoma City. Andy Sinatra and I left Sunday morning, so we missed saying thank you and goodbye. We wanted to complement you, your family, staff and friends, who worked so long and hard on this reunion. Please convey our sincerest appreciation. The highlights were the trips around the city, seeing the memorial, wingding, dinner and entertainment at the American Legion post. The Indian dancers were really a treat, the banquet to us (Andy, grandson Air Force 2nd Lt. Paul LaSorda and myself) was really awesome. General Magnus and wife were most gracious, and he was a great guest speaker. Once again, thank you for all your kindness and consideration. We hope to see you in Myrtle Beach. Best wishes always and Semper Fi, Sam Petriello.

★

Dear Joe: So happy to see you in Oklahoma City. It was a great reunion, actually one of the best in years. My appreciation and thanks go to all who helped make it such a success, especially Joan Willauer, whose name I keep mispronouncing and have for years. Take care and hope to see you next year. Semper Fi, Marion Bangert

★

Dear Flo: Thanks for all you do for our Association. I have already received the memorial grave marker and a very nice letter from Rev. Frank Mack. It seems you appreciate things like this so much more when it touches you, when you need it the most. I sincerely appreciate what you have done for us, Dorothy and the Albert O. Wilson Family (808 N 4th St, Ozark, MO 65721)

★

Hello, Joe (McConville), Word reached me recently that you and Marion will be unable to attend the reunion of the Sixth Marine Division in Oklahoma City. I'm really saddened to hear that you won't be there to play the pipes for us, but I certainly understand how difficult it is for you to cope with airline travel these days. I also understand that because of your limitations, you are also giving up the Treasurer's position. That too, is a shame because

you have done an excellent job of handling the finances of the Association. It will be difficult to find someone to fill your shoes because of the attention you gave to the job of Treasurer. Thanks again, Joe, for all the fine work you have done for the Sixth Marine Division Association. We will miss your service as our Pipe Major and your Irish wit and humor, and especially the fine "ditties" you used to sing for us. May God bless you and your beloved bride, Marion, with his choicest blessings in the days ahead. Semper Fidelis, with best wishes, Chaplain Frank Mack

★

Hi, I am trying to locate anyone who may have served with my father, Robert Earl Madlem in Okinawa in WWII. He was a corporal in the 6th Marine Division and fought on Sugar Loaf. He had red hair, was about 5'9", 150 lbs. He had a Marine Corps tattoo on his bicep and he went by the name of Bob (we are not sure if his fellow Marines called him "Red"). He was a radioman with Jasco / signal corps, but we are not sure if he carried a radio at Sugar Loaf. He also fought at Guam, Guadalcanal and Bouganville. He was originally from Elkhart Indiana and he enlisted in WWII when he was 17 years old.

Philip Peter Madlem.

Ed's Note: We have no address for Philip.

★

Joe Drago is in tough shape. They want to operate on him as he has stomach cancer. He is now debating with himself as to what to do at his age. I advised him not to have such a debilitating operation. He said that no one ever sends E-mail or whatever from the Sixth. The only one he ever hears from is me, so if you get a chance, send him a hello. It will pick him up. Joe was in I Co., 22nd and severely wounded in both legs. JADUSMC1@AOL.COM BILL Pierce

★

Gentlemen of FOX and others: It is with great sadness I report that our brother, Carl Sproatt, passed away Sunday morning, August 10. As you all know, Carl put up a stubborn, valiant struggle for a number of years. He will be buried in a Veterans' Cemetery in Dayton Ohio. I'll see to it that a floral offering is sent from FOX COMPANY. Corpsman Jack Rice is working on this

with me. I'll notify FOX men of the charges after the flowers are sent. The Sproatt address, telephone number and EMail address that appears in your current Fox Company Directory is accurate. Carl joined Fox Company on May 28, 1945 and 9-days later on Oruko Peninsula he was very seriously wounded. Carl always credited United States Navy Corpsmen with saving his life. Dick Whitaker, F-2-29.

★

Subject: Thank you all for being in OKC!!!!

Name: HM2(NAC/FMF) Sven "DOC" Berglone

Date Posted: Sep 22, 08 - 11:44 AM

Email: docsvn@netzero.com

Message: Thank you all for allowing me the honor of being your Corpsman this weekend in OKC. I was humbled just to be in the same room as you heroes. Thank you for your service and to your wives and family for theirs./DOC

★

Dear Mr. Singleton: Col. Ernest J. Graustein, USMC (Ret.) of Barrington, RI has suggested that I seek information on 2/Lt Edward McCrady Gaillard, USMCR, E-2-4, focusing on his Okinawa service from 18 May to his death 25 May on the outskirts of Naha. Sincerely, Edw. G. Bourne, PO Box 1252, Bonita Springs, FL 34133-1252.

★

Dear Mr. Pierce, I want to thank you for the pictures and bronze plaque of the Sixth Marine Division. They are items I will always treasure. Thank you, Connie Grant (Lindsay O. Wilson's daughter).

★

I think it deserves mentioning that today (Nov.10) is the Birthday of the USMC (1775) I have heard from many Marines that they consider the Seabees their kin.

HAPPY 233RD BIRTHDAY UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND ALL MARINES ON LAND OR AT SEA. MANY IN MY FAMILY WOULD NOT BE HERE IF NOT FOR YOU, OORAH! Edwin Foster,
www.112thseabees.com

**Sixth Marine Division Association
Annual Meeting of Members
(Abridged for Space)
September 20, 2008
Biltmore Hotel
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
38th Reunion**

President Ed Marsalek called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone. President Marsalek spoke about perpetuating and promoting the Association by having lineal descendants as full members, as the Raiders do. This would keep the 6th Marine Division legacy alive. It takes teamwork to get things done, which is how the Marines work and he asked everyone to do that, work together. For IRS purposes, the Association needs to be reclassified, in order to move forward with the lineal descendants idea. The Association is currently not in compliance because the number of veterans keeps dropping every year. Reclassification will not affect how the Association is run; it is only for legal purposes. The Board approved hiring a specialist to review the issue. Reverend Frank Mack gave the invocation. President Elect Sinatra led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Marsalek mentioned for the record that Lisa Benedetti was present to take the minutes and the meeting would be recorded.

Roll Call Secretary Tom Terpinas took the roll call: All were present except Treasurer Joe McConville and Public Relations Chairman Bill Pierce. Both had reported health difficulties and were excused. President Marsalek reported that Joe McConville is stepping down as treasurer due to ill health. Harold Walters has accepted the nomination to fill the position. He is currently the treasurer for the 22nd Marines. *Bill Tigger; seconded by George McAfee, moved to send a Certificate of Appreciation to Joe and Marion McConville. All in favor, motion carried.* President Marsalek commended the Reunion Committee. Secretary Terpinas declared a quorum was in attendance (50% of the membership present).

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

President Elect Andy Sinatra: Everything seems to be working fine. He asked everyone to let him know if there is anything. Members are also needed for this

position.

Treasurer Joe McConville: President Marsalek reported that Joe McConville sent a treasurer's report for the period of October 2007 to August 2008. An audit was conducted with the hiring of a CPA firm and it was clean. The balance was \$73,005.01. There were some major expenses this year, such as the Membership Directory.

Chaplain Frank Mack: The bell was rung for approximately 150 members. Everyone gets a personal letter from him, when he gets word of a death. He also receives many letters of appreciation. Rev. Mack stated he also sends out letters of encouragement and makes phone calls. He spoke about being with Carl Sproatt, who was a good friend, when he passed away. Rev. Mack brought back memorial markers and will continue to give them out until they are gone. Reverend Mack then stated that the 22nd Marine Association has been in existence for 16 years. Due to less and less attendance each year, they would like to have a joint reunion with the 6th Division, and then would like to merge. President Marsalek stated he likes the concept, but that how to do it would take some research. He invited the 22nd to attend the 6th Division reunion, as they were in the 6th Marine Division, and they could have a separate meeting during the reunion, as some of the other divisions currently do. Walt Kaminski commented that the Raiders had also proposed that awhile ago in order to have more leverage when booking a hotel. It had been thought that there could be a two week reunion with one group following the other or there could be two hospitality rooms with each group taking care of their own. Somehow, that never came about. President Marsalek asked everyone to think about this matter and perhaps it could be taken under consideration as old business next year. George McAfee stated that JASCO did the same thing. They dissolved their association, joined the 6th and hold a separate dinner during the reunion. You can only have one organization.

Editor Joe Singleton: The newsletter is in good shape and under budget. He needs more input from the membership to know what is wanted.

Membership Chairman Jim White: The membership manager report for 2008 was read. As of 8/8/08 the total membership total is 2,470 with the various classifications. The regular members total is 1,696. Also, \$10.00 is requested for a person to receive the newsletter. Currently there are 378 paid subscriptions for 2008 and 173 for 2009 so

far.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Membership: Jim White stated that Flo Dornan is doing a great job.

Bylaws: Sam Petriello stated that because of the passing of so many members it will be getting harder to get a quorum at meetings and for amendments per the bylaws. The current language calls for 100 members or 30% of regular and life members. He proposed the following amendments:

"Article VII Meetings (C) Quorum. The presence of not less than 30 or 10% regular and life members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business . . ."

"Article XIX Amendments. . . These bylaws may also be amended by the unanimous vote of the active members present at the Annual Meeting of Members provided, however, that this method of amendment shall not be used unless at least 30 or 10% active members in good standing are present at such meeting."

George McAfee, seconded by Don Peterson, moved to approve the above amendments. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Scholarship: Mr. Petriello reported that 15 grandchildren were awarded \$20,550 for the current academic year. Since 2002 there have been 79 Awards in the amount of \$198,335 to grandchildren. A letter was also received from the President of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation stating that their policy as to the amount of money to be awarded to the grandchildren of the 6th Division was being changed due to the fact that there were more awards being given than money from the 6th Division. Mr. Petriello spoke with the woman who has been handling the scholarships, who assured him that consideration would still be given to the 6th Division grandchildren.

Nominations: Marty Essex reported nominations for all officers were prepared and he then conducted the elections. For each office, Mr. Essex stated who the Nominating Committee nominated, if the person accepted the nominations, and then he also asked for nominations from the floor three times.

President Elect – Reverend Frank Mack: Peter Drettos seconded by Watson Crumbie, move to close the nominations and elect Frank Mack. All in favor, motion carried.

Secretary – Tom Terpinas: George McAfee, seconded by Don Peterson, move to close the nominations and elect Tom

Terpinas. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer – Harold Walters: Sal Mistretta, seconded by Walt Kaminski, move to close the nominations and elect Harold Walters. All in favor, motion carried.

Chaplain – Reverend Frank Mack: Rev. Mack commented that when he becomes president, another chaplain will be needed. Don Peterson, seconded by Floyd Hill, moved to close the nominations and elect Reverend Frank Mack. All in favor, motion carried.

Editor – Joe Singleton: Jack Rice, seconded by Don Peterson, move to close the nominations and elect Joe Singleton. All in favor, motion carried.

Judge Advocate – Sam Petriello: Frank LaBarge, seconded by Reverend Mack, moved to close the nominations and elect Sam Petriello. All in favor, motion carried.

Membership – James White: Reverend Mack, seconded by Sam Petriello, moved to close the nominations and elect James White. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Relations – William Pierce: Jack Houston, seconded by Jack Rice, moved to close the nominations and elect William Pierce. All in favor, motion carried.

Service Officer – Vincent Mathews: Jack Rice, seconded by Dick Roberts, moved to close the nominations and elect Vince Mathews. All in favor, motion carried.

President Marsalek had each unit elect a director and had them sign a sheet. Directors for the units with no representation would be appointed.

Unit Directors Elected:

4 th Marines	Walter Heuer
22 nd Marines	Andy Sinatra
29 th Marines	Henry B. Kemp
6 th Mtr Trans Bn	Vince Mathews
6 th Med Bn	Jack Rice
6 th Tank Bn	Albert Stoel
6 th Recon Co.	Fred Westphal
6 th JASCO	Dick Roberts

President Marsalek asked for nominations for two members at large to serve on the Nominating Committee. As there were no nominations, the positions remain vacant.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Marsalek reviewed the actions taken by the Board at its meeting of September 19, 2008:

- Induction of Ward Lowing, friend (Sugar Loaf Hill painting) and Chris

Majewski, Director of the Battle of Okinawa Museum as Honorary Life Members.

- Certificate of Appreciation to Lucy Young who maintains our website on a volunteer basis and has for many years.

Approved Contract from Military Reunion Services with Marydel Gaiser for the Myrtle Beach Reunion. She will organize the event and Jack Houston who lives in Myrtle Beach will be the site chairman.

- Hiring legal counsel to review reclassification of the 6th Marine Division Association and the inclusion of lineal descendants as full members.
- Approved Membership Managers Contract for 2009 with Flo Dornan.

Reunion Site 2010:

Marty Essex suggested the reunion site for 2010 be in Las Vegas. The hotel would be the Union Plaza, which is downtown and was used for the 2003 reunion. The price would be \$40.00/night, and it is an adequate hotel. Other hotels are more expensive. This site would be only if no other sites are proposed. *Frank LaBarge, seconded by Bob Russell, moved to approve Las Vegas as the 2010 Reunion site. All in favor, motion carried.* Next year's reunion in Myrtle Beach is scheduled for October 19 – 25, 2009. That can change if the reunion site chair and the consultant find a better week. There was some discussion on holding another reunion here in Oklahoma City, as everyone has enjoyed it so much. *Andy Sinatra, seconded by Peter Vrettos, moved to send a Certificate of Appreciation to the Oklahoma City Reunion Committee Members. All in favor, motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Watson Crumbie spoke. He stated that it has been mentioned about the importance of preserving the 6th Marines legacy. He read a letter he has written to the Director of the National Museum of the Marine Corps that stated his dissatisfaction with the lack of a larger Okinawa display at the Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico. He listed the statistics for that battle. He further stated that more donations might be given if there could be assurance that a better display would be prepared. He asked her for a reply. He would like to publish this letter and her reply in the 1st, 2nd and 6th Marine Division newsletters. President Marsalek stated the Board would take it

under advisement. Emil Wroblicky stated he would be traveling to Notre Dame and would like to ask the director of athletics to have a half time recognition for the veterans of WWII especially for Notre Dame alums that served in the 6th Marine Division. Perhaps this could be done in 2009. Adjournment 12:15 p.m. **Submitted by Tom Terpinas, Secretary (Recurrent and routine actions have been abridged for space. Complete membership minutes on file with Membership Mgr. and Secretary. There will be no board minutes published, Editor)**

Carl Sproatt (F-2-29) Passes at Home

SPROATT, CARL JOHNSON, 81, of Groveport, OH, formerly of Sullivan, IN, passed away Sunday, August 10, 2008 in his residence surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Carlisle, IN on October 4, 1926, a son of the late Stephan and Malinda (Johnson) Sproatt. He served his country in the US Marine Corps, 6th Marine Division during World War II. He served on the island of Okinawa and was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries. Carl retired from Johnson Mill and Elevator Company in Sullivan, IN. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Doris (Robertson) Sproatt of Groveport, OH; daughter, Jodie (Jeff) Rice of Groveport, OH; grandchildren, Eric (Heidi) Rice of Cincinnati, OH and Erin Rice of Louisville, KY; three great grandchildren, Alexander, Aidan and Avery. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, John Franklin Sproatt of California. Cremation has taken place and a Memorial Service with Military Honors will be held at a later date. The family is being served by Halteman-Fett & Dyer Funeral Home, Lancaster, OH. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice in his memory. Published in the Orlando Sentinel on 8/12/2008

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.

NAME	UNIT	DATE OF DEATH
DURISOE, Thomas W.	6 th Marine Div.	9/17/2008
IVICE, Sy	29 th MAR-2-HQ	4/17/2008
JOHNSON, Billy J.	22 nd MAR-2-HQ	2/09/2008
LA HAYNE, Edith	Wife of Elden La Hayne	7/17/2008
LAMBERT, Earl M.	4 th MAR-HQ	10/2/2008
LOBITZ, Lloyd H.	6 th Motor Transport Bn-H&S	7/24/2008
MCCORMICK, Rev. Francis G.	29 th MAR-2-F (Corpsman)	7/24/2008
MCLAUGHLIN, Lawrence B.	22 nd MAR-3-HQ	7/16/2008
McMILLAN, Robert H.	22 nd MAR-3-I	Unknown
MENGEL, Gordon H.	6 th Marine Div.-HQ-Signal	8/19/2008
NASE, Walter H.	29 th MAR-3-HQ	5/22/2007
PAICE, Alta	Wife of Leon Paice	7/05/2008
PARR, Carol J.	Wife of Kenneth Parr	10/01/2003
PEKALA, Bernard A.	29 th MAR-1-A	12/09/2007
RUSSELL, John W.*	22 nd MAR-3-HQ	9/04/2008
SABELLICO, Joseph J.(NM)*	Corpsman	0/00/2004
SMITH, Martha	Wife of James A. Smith	8/26/2008
SPROATT, Carl J.	29 th MAR-2-F	8/10/2008
WALKER, Harold D.	6 th Marine Div.-HQ-Signal (JASCO)	9/21/2008
WALLACK, Robert E.*	29 th MAR-1-C	7/07/2008
WEBER, Roland V.	29 th MAR-2-HQ	8/20/2008

New Members

DALE, William P., ID #6036, 4th MAR-2-E, Regular Annual
HAMLIN, Sutton Stephens, ID #6029, Daughter of Walter Harold Stephens, Assoc. Life
HARDENBURG, Lina B., ID #6030, Daughter of Allen J. Peek, Associate Life
HOEYMAN, Ray J., ID #6033, Son of Francis Hoeymans, Associate Annual
MURRELL, Gordon R., ID #6028, 4th Marines, Regular Life
O'BRIEN, Mary (Marlene) S., ID #6035, Widow of William N. O'Brien, Associate Annual
OATES, Kathryn, ID #6037, Daughter of William P. Dale, Associate Annual
OUNRE, Alan, ID #6032, Son of Willie V. Oubre, Associate Annual
SPIESS, James, ID 6034, Friend of Jim White/Dick Whitaker, Associate Annual
STITES, William N., ID #6027, 29th MAR-1-A, Regular Life
TITUS, David W., ID #5855, 6th Medical Bn-A, Regular Annual to Regular Life
WARE, Benjamin E., ID #6038, 22nd MAR-2-HQ, Regular Annual

MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

I am sure my beginning comments will be repeated throughout this Newsletter — we had a wonderful reunion in Oklahoma City. Our Marine gals were so organized that everything happened just like it was supposed to and on time. Who would have known that Oklahoma City had so many interesting and beautiful things to see. And of course, there was the National Memorial of the Murrell Building, an absolutely sobering and meaningful tribute and a reminder of what we are still facing today. It was wonderful to see the smiling faces of folks having a good time and not complaining or confused. I know they will never forget the Oklahoma City Reunion — I know I won't.

After a newsletter has been sent out I am often requested for contact information for a new member listed in the newsletter who is

an old buddy of many years ago. Therefore I am planning to include the address of our new members in the newsletter beginning in the Spring of 2009.

We have so many Marine (regular) members that we have not heard from in too many years that I am going to ask for help. I have checked in the computer for these men and their names did not come up with an address or phone number. They may not be in good health, in a nursing home or may not be with us any longer. Therefore, in each newsletter I will place a list of names in my "Message" with the request that if you know any of these men and know their whereabouts, please contact me by e-mail, mail or even telephone. Look for more names in the next newsletter. The following is the first group of names:

Donations from Caring Members, Families & Friends:

DIRECTORY:

FAIR, Joe
HOJNA, Henry M. (Above and beyond)
LACEY, James
PEEK, Allen J. (Above and beyond)
PIVARUNAS, Walter

GENERAL FUND:

HASOMERIS, Peter
IRWIN, Ralph W.
PEEK, Allen J. (Above and beyond)
SPEDDEN, Roy E.
STITES, William N. (Above and beyond)
UKROP, Sam D.
WALKER, Dorothy
WARNECKE, JR., William
WESSELLS, Ruth

LIFE CARD DONATION

HARDENBURG, Lina B.

MEMORIAL MARKER FUND:

GRANT, Alton (Above and beyond)
PIVARUNAS, Walter
PEEK, Allen J.
SCHROEDER, Arno
THOMPSON, Arthur
WESSELLS, Ruth

NEWSLETTER FUND:

MARSHALL, JR. W. W. (Above and beyond)
MATHEWS, Vincent

AGEE, Burnard G.	22 nd MAR-2-E
ANDERSON, Howard H.	6 th Engineer Bn-B (Corpsman)
ANDERSON, William K.	6 th Tank Bn-B
ARENDET, Edward W.	22 nd MAR-3-K
ARNOLD, Robert	29 th MAR-1-C
ARNOLD, Steve	6 th Marine Div-HQ-MP
BANEY, Joseph F.	6 th Engineer Bn-H&S
BANKUS, Frederick S.	29 th MAR-2-E
BARBER, Ara J.	4 th MAR-HQ
BARBER, William A.	4 th MAR-3-HQ
BARKER, Clinton J.	22md MAR-1-C
BEATTY, JR. Charles F.	29 th MAR-3-HQ

My last words: REMEMBER IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR 2009 DUES AND NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO!



Paulie De Meis

Dear Catherine, Rose, Adele, Cathy, Rose, Virginia, Roselle and Family, our Commandant, General Conway, LtGen Natonski, LtGen Helland, VADM Architzel, MGen Gardner, BGen Toolan, Col's Hartig, Padilla, Trafton and Holden and many, many others asked me to personally extend their sympathy to you on Paul's passing. In the Marine Corps we honor and remember our men and women for the difference they make for Corps and Country — and today we are here to honor and remember a friend, a brother, a father, a Godfather, a loving husband and one of our Corps' heroes, Corporal Paolo Stephen DeMeis, USMC (Ret.).

Corporal Paul DeMeis, the Brooklyn born son of Italian immigrants demonstrated his love of Country FIRST by enlisting in the Marine Corps in a time of war, SECOND by upholding the highest traditions of our Corps in combat, and FINALLY, by dedicating the remainder of his very FULL LIFE to brightening the lives of others and to inspiring the generations of Marines that have followed in his great footsteps.

A tough Italian kid who grew up on the streets during the Great Depression, Paul told me that he spent more time out of school than in, always looking for ways to earn money to help out his family. A Golden Gloves finalist in NYC as a young teenager, he grew up quickly and learned to handle himself in tough situations at an early age.

Paul was 12 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941. He watched as seven De Meis brothers and cousins enlisted to fight. Paul became the 8th DeMeis to serve, enlisting in the Marine

CORPORAL PAOLO S. DEMEIS, USMC (RET.)

Eulogy at Valley Oaks Memorial Park, (Abridged)

Westlake Village, California

Corps by way of a false birth certificate at age 15. As a note, the DeMeis Family collectively earned six Purple Hearts in WWII, with two family members making the ultimate sacrifice.

Paul turned 16 in Boot Camp in 1944. Then Paul spent 44 consecutive months overseas as the Corps caught up with his birth certificate shenanigans and started his contract over again at age 17.

That Paul survived the war is a blessing in itself. Indeed he saw close action against the enemy serving as a bazooka man on both Guam and Okinawa. Known to his buddies and most of us today as the "Bazooka Kid," he is mentioned in a number of books including "Killing Ground on Okinawa" by James Hallas. Paul was decorated for valor twice but, like most Marines, he'd never talk about that.

I know of a few of Paul's exploits — his famous Bazooka bank shot into an enemy cave, ducking out of his battalion aid station after being severely wounded to return to the fighting line and making a mulligan stew in the field to feed his whole platoon. Yes, folks, the DeMeis tradition of feeding everyone started way back then and continued without letup for seven wonderful decades.

When the atomic bombs ended the war, Paul's 4th Marine Regiment was sent to Yokosuka, Japan for occupation duty. He loved to describe the feelings he had when he and his buddies liberated Marine POWs from his very same regiment, the 4th, who had been captured on Corregidor Island in the Philippines and had been in the Bataan Death March. Paul and his buddies treated them to steaks and a parade from "their" Regiment. Paul loved to describe how proud he was to march in that parade.

After Yokosuka, Paul was ordered to China for what we would know today as peacekeeping duty. Unfortunately, trouble found the Bazooka Kid again in the form of Communist Chinese, who attacked an ammunition dump he was guarding, wounding him for a third time in three campaigns. This final wounding resulted in orders stateside and a permanent medical retirement as a Corporal of Marines.

Now Paul had great leadership as many of his officers and SNCOs in the 4th were Raiders. He also had tremendous mental and physical toughness — the kind that enabled him to overcome heart disease and other ailments for many years. The Bazooka Kid also had

a little luck and the Lord watching over him, but what really carried Paul through WWII and the rest of his life was a love story that started on the beach in Coney Island, NY when Paul met Catherine.

If you can imagine, Paul was dressed in an Italian Sailors' uniform that he'd acquired in trade from an Italian POW. Catherine, meanwhile, who was playing spin the bottle with her friends, thought he was an Italian from Italy, and was dared to go up to meet him. When she did, Paul got a bit fresh and planted an unauthorized kiss. Catherine, or "Guddie" as Paul affectionately called her, immediately gave the Golden Gloves champ a sock on the kisser that turned into quite a fat lip. It was love at first sight and punch! Catherine faithfully waited for her Marine to return home for nearly four years, while Paul kept her picture in his helmet and thought of her every day.

They spent the next wonderful 60 years together raising a family and I know that I speak for everyone here when I say how blessed we all are that Paul, Catherine and their family finally settled in Simi Valley, California.

Paul has been a fixture in the community supporting Veteran's events...He has given back...***he has given a great deal back.*** He has inspired thousands of young men and women at dozens of birthday ball and gatherings around the country and as far away as Iceland. He has spoken in classrooms across the county. He has cooked for wounded men returning from combat. He has brightened the lives of every one of us gathered here.

I reported to Ventura County in the summer of 1996 as a young, impressionable Captain and was introduced to a very special family of Marine Veterans — ***Giants of the Corps*** who performed incredible deeds that I grew up learning about — Men like Mike Torres, Russ Bond, Jimmy Emanuel, Knobby Walsh, Paul Mole' and Paul DeMeis, men I thought were indestructible, immortal. I suppose that no one, not even a Marine like Paul is indestructible, but he will always remain immortal as long as any of us are alive.

Paul never liked to say good-bye, so I will say ***so long*** Paul, God Bless and Semper Fi... we will miss you.

Presented on a warm, sunny Southern California day with love, sympathy and great respect, Colonel W.A. Buhl, USMC, 28 October, 2008

Semper Fidelis

'He Was Always Telling Jokes, Laughing With the Marines'

Paolo (Paulie) De Meis, the Fourth Marines' "Bazooka Kid," died October 24. He had been at death's door for three or four months with a heart condition, failing kidneys and liver. His wife Catherine, who is very proud of his attentions to the young Marines of the present, is ill herself but survives with three daughters.

"He loved the Marines," she said, and they loved him back. He cooked for the young men returning from combat on a regular basis, playing and joking with them. He attended many of their official and related functions, often as guest of honor. She said, "He was broken-hearted" when he could no longer visit with and be of help to his Marine buddies.



A Time for Comforting — The Marines kept Paulie DeMeis close to their hearts all these years since WWII. His widow, Catherine, also. Here she is with their close pal, Willy Buhl, who won most of those medals in Iraq. He probably has more.

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Fox Tops Again — Fox Company, 29th Marines always has the most present at 6th Division Reunions of any rifle company mainly because Dick Whitaker and Bob Sherer insist on it. From left, front row are Henry Kemp, Bob Walker, Bob Sherer, Neal McCollum, Pete Peterson and George Schadt. From left, back row are Joe Singleton, Pete Howell, Bill Twigger, Ray Welch, Bill Sanner and Dick Whitaker. A further accomplishment of the company rests with George Schadt, who was the best dancer there in a wheel chair.



Here's Pam Again — With Emil Wroblicky, 3rd Amphib. Bn., left, and Jack Dornan, 4th Marines.

6th Marine Division Association

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Striking Sixth Newsletter

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