

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 40, No. 2

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

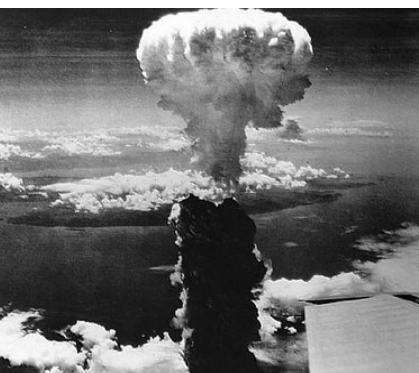
Summer 2015

70 YEARS AGO - SUMMER 1945



SPRINGFIELD, MASS., MON
Yanks Open Full - Power Drive Against Japanese on Death-Stand Okinawa Line
 Marines Advance in Face of Heavy Enemy Fire; Suicide Nip Fliers Attack U. S. Fleet, Sink One Light Vessel

Okinawa
 Apr 1 - Jun 22



Hiroshima & Nagasaki - August 6 & 8



Formal Japanese Surrender - Sept. 2

Inside This Issue:

Reunion Info / John Foley.....	2
Officer & Unit Director Listing.....	3
Mail Call.....	4-5
<i>Rise of Valiant</i> Film Wins Award.....	6-7
Ozzie Aasland Interviews.....	7
Historian's Corner.....	8-9
Marine Archives/Donations/Raiders..	10
Ladies Aux. Report / Editor's Note....	11
McTureous / Chaplain's Report.....	12
Reunion Schedule of Events.....	13
Reunion Hotel & Tour Details.....	14
Reunion Registration Form.....	15-16
My Time As a Marine.....	17-19
Ulithi.....	20-21
Real Meaning of Memorial Day.....	22
TAPS.....	23
Membership Mgr's. Note and Info.....	24
Membership Application.....	25
Paul Sanner's Auction Win.....	26-27



6th Marine Division Reunion Columbus Airport Marriott

August 17-23, 2015

Make your reservations now!

800-491-5717

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



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

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

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

Key Deadlines

July 31—make hotel reservations

August 1—send in registration form

Questions?

Contact Barb or Harry McKnight:

phone: (614) 866-3456, e-mail: barbandht6321@aol.com

John Foley Recognized at Arena Football Game

Three combat veterans were recognized for their service at Amway Center in Orlando Florida, including Sixth Division Marine, John Foley (4th MAR-3-K), shown waving to the crowd in the picture to the right. Recognized with John was a veteran of the Vietnam war (and past President of the Purple Heart Association) and a veteran from the Iraq war. John is a past President of the Sixth Marine Division Association and hosted four reunions between 1999 and 2007.





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

Elected Officers

**PRESIDENT &
PRESIDENT ELECT**

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

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

CHAPLAIN

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

EDITOR

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

JUDGE ADVOCATE

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

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

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

SERVICE OFFICER

Vacant

PAST PRESIDENT

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

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

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

Unit Directors

4th Marines	George Scott
15th Marines	Ozzie Aasland
22nd Marines	Vacant
29th Marines	Neil McCallum
6th Motor Trans Battalion	Vacant
6th Medical Battalion	David Titus
6th Engineering	Burr Allen
6th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta
6th Pioneer Battalion	Marvin Gromley
6th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6th Recon Company	Joe Singleton
6th JASCO	Vacant
1st Amphibs	George Tremblay

MEMBERSHIP MGR.

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

**LADIES AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT**

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

HISTORIAN

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

The Striking Sixth Newsletter

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

The subscription rate is \$10 per calendar year. Membership applications, dues, donations, address changes, deaths notices, and record changes should be mailed with an application (see page 25) to:

Florence R. Dornan
704 Cooper Court
Arlington, TX 76011

Please make checks payable to:

Sixth Marine Division Assn., Inc.

For more information, please contact Flo at:

(817) 275-1552 or
sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

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

Letters to the editor, materials for publication, suggestions, and feedback can be sent to: Carroll McGowan, chm1423@aol.com, 1423 Pueblo Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15228, (412) 341-9219



A Call for American History

Hello Flo, Here's my check for this year's newsletter. Please use the rest for our Gyrenes who may need some help for their subscriptions.

Recently, I went to my local Veterans ER for a kidney stone. While there I became acquainted with an Iwo Jima Marine who told me the reason he was there was to look after the "bones which were showing through his bed sores." Come on America! We can't let these things keep happening to our vets!

Henry Ford claimed that history was "bunk." Apparently so do most of our educators. Only 18% of our colleges and universities offer American History. It now appears that we descendants are going to have to do the job that they will not do. Especially for young adults, isn't it important for them to know the past so they will be able to guide us into the future? It seems that a lot of home schooling is very necessary in these times.

Descendants! A call for history! Dig out those old histories about "The Striking Sixth" and other related materials and teach our children how lucky they are that such heroic American sacrifices were made on their behalf. I just asked my 9 and 10 year old grandsons who won WWII and they didn't know. Should I be upset about this, or is this "the new normal."

Author William Manchester's (1922-2004) book "Goodbye, Darkness" is one of the best (though it has some historical inaccuracies). His account of his father being left for dead with the Marines at WWI's Belleau Wood nearly mirrors his own experience at Sugar Loaf Hill. It's an emotional and honest memoir with his Marine brothers. His 29th Marine Regiment (Sixth Division) suffered over 85% casualties, which was probably the worst of the Pacific War.

According to the documentary "Against All Odds" on the American Heroes Channel, they claimed that a "special" Presidential Unit Citation was issued to them, but all I have is the P.U.C. for the entire 6th Division. Can any one of our Gyrenes help to clear this up? Please let us know in a future newsletter.

Still wanting to hear from anyone from 1st Bn, B Co, 29th Marines, or hope to see you at the next reunion.

May God continue to bless us,
Jack E. Lynch
1388 Vanzant Bend Road
Belvidere, TN 37306-2563.
Semper Fi

Editor's Note: The Presidential Unit Citation mentioned in "Against All Odds" is the Citation that was issued to the entire Sixth Division. There were no individual citations.



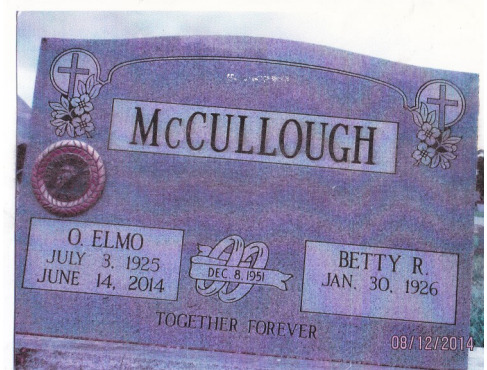
RIP Onward Elmo McCullough

Dear 6th Marine Association:

My husband Onward Elmo McCullough passed away June 14, 2014. He fought in Okinawa and also Guam in WWII. He was in 22nd Marines B-1. He came home a nervous wreck and would not talk about it until Harold White from Arkansas came to visit us in 1990. He told him all about the reunions and how they had been looking for him. The first reunion we went to was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and it was so good for him to see the friends he had back then. We went to many other reunions until his health got too bad to go.

At Albia, New Mexico he received the Marine Plaque that he wanted to put on his marker. He was able to enjoy it while he was alive, and he was really proud of it.

Betty McCullough
739 Mary Street
Belpre, OH 45714



final resting place of Onward Elmo McCullough



Looking for Information on Percy Thomas Whitney

Dear Sir or Madam:

My father, Percy Thomas Whitney, was a Marine with the Sixth Division during WWII. I am gathering information for a scrapbook for him for Father's Day. The Marines at the New England Office for Recruiting in Portsmouth, NH were a great help to me by connecting me with the Sixth Division website. They even printed the information for me. My father is 96 and no longer uses his computer.

My father was drafted and insisted on joining the Marines. At that time he was employed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where Marines were stationed, and he had come to admire them greatly. He was with the Sixth Marines, landing in the invasion of Okinawa in the north part of the island on April 1, 1945. Many weeks later they were moved by ship to the east side of the island to assist the Marines who were bogged down in the south. From there he was deployed to Tsingtao, China as part of the occupying force. One of his duties in the Marines was being a driver for an officer.

I was born February 1, 1945 and was thirteen months old by the time my father returned to civilian life. He remained at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard until retiring as Master of the Foundry and Pattern Shop.

My father's experience as a Marine is one of the most vivid and proud memories of his life. He uses a carved can he brought home from China, wears a hat and jacket with the Marine Corps insignia, and always greets Marines with "Semper Fi." I keep his Marine Corps pin and little Bible issued to him with pride and admiration for all those who serve.

I am interested in learning anything pertinent to the group he served with, including remaining living members. Your attention is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Cheryl L. Wyman
208 New Bow Lake Road
Barrington, NH 03854
Cell 603-969-1977
ruralretreatorchard@gmail.com.

Percy Thomas Whitney
Box 414, Cranfield Street
New Castle, NH 03854

Note from Membership Manager:
Unfortunately Cheryl's letter arrived between newsletter publications and won't be published until after Father's Day, but I believe they both would appreciate hearing from anyone with information, even though it is late.



Looking for Okinawa Souvenirs

Flo, do you know anyone who has Okinawa souvenirs for sale or that they want to get rid of?

Maurice Vail
609 Debbington Drive
Bay Village, OH 44140
Phone: 440-835-1939

In Memory of Dan and Vicki MacDougall

Please accept this donation in memory of my parents, Dan and Vicki MacDougall. They loved the 6th Marine Division Association. They attended over 25 reunions starting with the second in Atlantic City. They had many wonderful friends that they treasured over the years. Sadly, so many of them are gone. Please use this for general expenses.

Sincerely,
Vicki A. MacDougall
2244 New York Avenue
Bensalem, PA 19020-7265



RIP Charles E. McCoy, Jr.

I wanted to let you know that a member of the 6th Marine Division recently passed away. My Father, Charles E. McCoy, Jr., fought in Okinawa and passed away on Thursday 5/21. His memorial service will be held in Lansdale, Pa Saturday, June 13. I wanted to let you know as he was very proud of his service to his country and being a part of the 6th Marine Division.

Jeff McCoy



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

Rise of the Valiant Earns Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Award for Best Feature Documentary

Below is a condensed version of an article by Huey Freeman that appeared in Herald Review.com on 5/24/15

The Battle of Okinawa, in which about 14,000 American troops lost their lives, was the largest and most costly campaign of the war in the Pacific. But sandwiched chronologically between Iwo Jima, with its iconic flag-raising photograph, and the atomic bombings that ended the war, Okinawa has been largely lost to the nation's collective memory.

Bob Zimmerman, an independent filmmaker whose father fought with the Marine Corps during the crucial battle, believes people should know about the sacrifices that were made on that heavily populated Japanese island just 350 miles from the mainland.

A self-taught filmmaker, Zimmerman was recently awarded the prestigious Marine Corps Heritage Foundation award for best feature documentary, which he received April 25 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

"When I put the film together, that's not something I had in mind," said Zimmerman, who was looking online for film festivals to enter when he discovered the Marine awards. "It honors their heritage. It hits on all the main points they're looking for."

When the foundation offered a brick in his honor in a walk outside the museum, Zimmerman said he preferred to place a brick in his dad's name, Cpl. Al Zimmerman.



Pictured at the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Awards Ceremony on April 25, 2015: General Walter E. Boomer (Ret.); Ronald L. Green, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps; Bob Zimmerman; General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Lt. General Robert R. Blackman (Ret.), President and CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

"He earned it," Zimmerman said.

One of the judges who selected "Rise of the Valiant" for the award was Norman Hatch, 94, who formerly served as head of the Marine Corps film division. He was photographic officer in charge of still and movie cameramen on Iwo Jima and cinematographer of an Oscar-winning film on the Battle of Tarawa.

From his home in Alexandria, Va., Hatch said Zimmerman's movie showed what it was really like to experience the war.

"He did an overall good job of letting you know what the place was like," said Hatch, the namesake of the award Zimmerman received. "I thought he was very fortunate because the men he talked to, they knew what they were talking about."

"Rise of the Valiant," produced,

directed, photographed and edited by Zimmerman, intersperses interviews with six Sixth Marine Division combat veterans with battle archive footage and newsreels.

The veterans, all of whom joined the Marines in their teens or early 20s, candidly spoke of their experiences. The fact of his father's common experiences, coupled with Zimmerman's patient interview style, spurred them to share some of their most painful memories.

Zimmerman became interested in the historic battle when he read letters his father had written from Okinawa.

"After he passed away in 1998, I found the bundle of letters in an old cedar trunk," said Zimmerman, during an interview in Tuscola, IL, where he has lived most of his life. "From his letters, I found out what he had done, where he went. Just finding out what he did was really interesting."

Al Zimmerman, a native of Youngstown, Ohio, was in college in 1943, when he joined the Marines. He was trained as a sniper and assigned to a reconnaissance company. He was one of the first Marines mustered into the Sixth Marine Division, assembled on Guadalcanal for the invasion of Okinawa.

After Bob Zimmerman completed his first film, he turned his atten-

(continued on the next page)

Striking Sixth

Rise of the Valiant

(continued from the previous page)

tion to making a movie based on his father's letters.

In March 2014, he set out with his wife, Brenda, to find Marine veterans who had fought on Okinawa. He contacted the Sixth Marine Division Association, and attended a reunion. He found two men who had served in reconnaissance companies, although neither was in the same unit as his father's. The men he interviewed lived in Chicago, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina.

The concept of the film changed from the story of his father to that of the unique Sixth Marine Division and its only battle in World War II. It was the only Marine Division formed overseas and disbanded overseas, never seeing any service in the United States.

"After I started talking to these guys, I saw the story differently," Zimmerman said. "They had so many stories to tell. I saw more of their personal side. They talked about how they joined the Marines at 18 and how when they came home, there was nothing

for them, no parades. The war was over for a year by that time."

Roy Wilkes of Chicago recounted how the Marines had an easy time landing on the north end of Okinawa, and thought they might get to go home soon after taking 90 percent of the large island unopposed. But then they were sent to the south end, where the Japanese were entrenched by design, and the Army had been carrying a heavy load.

"The casualties were monumental," Wilkes said.

When his platoon was on a hillside, seeking the next pocket of resistance, the lieutenant out in front threw a grenade into a cave. "The whole side of the mountain went up (in an explosion) and buried everybody," Wilkes said. "Of the 25 of us, 23 were killed instantly."

The casualties of the 82-day battle are estimated at 250,000, including more than 77,000 Japanese soldiers and 100,000 civilians killed.

Whitaker, of Mount Pleasant, S.C., said in a phone interview that his regiment, the 29th, had an 82 percent casualty rate. His

life was spared when he leaned into a foxhole to get a light for a cigarette. If he had not moved, he would have been shot in his upper chest area, instead of receiving a hand wound.

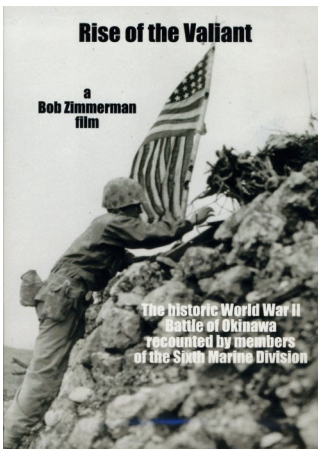
Whitaker survived the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill, in which 192 of the 253 in his Fox Company were killed or injured, and said he was pleased with the way Zimmerman's movie turned out. "He certainly accomplished his mission, to bring credit to Marines," Whitaker said.

Ozzie Aasland Interviewed by Journalists



Earlier this year, Jun Kaminishikawara, a correspondent with the Kyodo News Washington Bureau in Washington DC, flew to Oregon to interview Ozzie Aasland about his experience before, during and after the Battle of Okinawa. The two are pictured above.

But that's not all. Matt Burke, a staff writer with the Stars & Stripes in the Okinawa (Japan) Bureau, recently interviewed Ozzie by phone for over an hour.



Where To Buy *Rise of the Valiant*

To see a trailer or to purchase the DVD:

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

You can also purchase it on Amazon:

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

The cost is \$15. A portion of each sale will be donated to the Semper Fi Fund.

From the Historian's Corner

CIVILIANS ON OKINAWA

Often when talking to a veteran about the Battle of Okinawa, their thoughts turn to the Okinawans. Each has a sad story to tell about these poor civilians being caught in the crossfire during the “typhoon of steel.” The Americans were far better to the Okinawans than the Japanese were, and wanted them out of the way and taken care of as best they could. At first this duty would be assigned to military police and later the Navy (as the Military Government under the Tenth Army), and then a governing body within the Department of Defense would take over jurisdiction and governance of the island. Even after the war, great care was given to how Okinawa would be administered.

The Okinawans had become part of a game that they did not want any part of. Some of the men and women were conscripted by the Japanese, although most deserted and went back to their families as soon as they could. The Okinawans had a rich history, but after the Japanese takeover they had been placed in second class status and were abused by the Japanese. The Ryukus are a series of islands, 350 miles from Japan, with Okinawa being its largest. They had been an independent country for years. They had strong ties to China and a great port—Naha—for trade. They were rather wealthy, but

eventually fell under loose Chinese control between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries. Then they were invaded by Japan and in many ways paupered for Japanese gain. They were finally incorporated into Japan in 1871 and became part of the Japanese search for empire, whether they wanted to or not. Okinawans who remember the battle often have fond memories of the Americans who in many ways “liberated” their island from the Japanese.

A favorite story about the Okinawans came from the author's neighbor while residing on Okinawa. “Mr. Tomi-san” was a character -- and both our neighbor and our landlord. Houses are very close together which leads to an unspoken rule of allowing privacy and a closeness that cannot be avoided. We did our best not to be *ugly Americans* and adhere to Japanese mores and customs, and we were rewarded with a wonderful friendship with this man. I knew that he had to be the “right age” and as my interest in the battle grew, I wanted to ask him what *his war* had been like. The time finally arrived after plying him with a few beers. I asked him if he had been alive during the battle. He was actually from an island off the coast of Okinawa and therefore had it easier in some ways. However, the people on his island were



slowly starving to death. According to Mr. Tomi-san, they were drinking rainwater and eating grass. He had seven brothers and sisters at the beginning of the war, and by the end of the war he and one brother were all that were left.

When the Americans finally came to the island, with a neisi translator (someone usually of Japanese descent who could speak Japanese), the Okinawans were told to come out of their caves and get food. One must understand that Japanese propaganda had done a number on the Okinawans. They were told that our food was purposely poisoned and that they should not eat it. They were told that Americans would rape their woman and eat their children. They knew how brutal the Japanese had been to them, and how they had been forced to be Japanese. They knew, as the Cairo Declaration makes clear, that they had been “taken by violence

(continued on the next page)

The Okinawans

(continued from the previous page)

and greed.” So what could they expect from the Americans? Finally, the local population was coerced out of their caves and food was proffered. No one would eat any of the food. Finally, a thirteen year old boy, much to the dismay and fears of everyone else, stepped forward and ate. Mr. Tomi-san said, “I eat food, I no die, I like Americans.”

Many other Okinawans had similar experiences with the Americans, whether it was the average soldier/Marine stopping to share their food or bind a wound, or the bigger bureaucracy trying to keep them safe. According to the Roy Appleman book, *The War in the Pacific – Okinawa: The Last Battle*, plans for the Okinawans were being prepared even before the landing. They did not expect huge civilian resistance, and even before the landing, they were referring to them as displaced persons. Civilian casualties overall were light as many of them hid in caves (whole families were found in deep wells), and many had already moved north where there was less fierce fighting. Nor were there mass suicides as there had been on other islands. Although suicides did happen, especially down south, they were less prevalent than in Saipan, for example. The Appleman book states, “A frugal and industrious people, with low standard of living and little education, the Okinawans docilely made the best of the dis-

aster which had overtaken them.”

The Okinawans were placed under the custody of the military police and Military Government section, whose command function fell under the Tenth Army. Marines and Army personal were involved in this process at first, until a true military government was established on the island which fell under the Navy’s jurisdiction. Then they were removed to detention areas. First they had stockades, but eventually those went away. The main camps (which were different than the POW camps) were in Ishikawa and Katchin Peninsula in the north and Koza and Awase in the south (near modern day Kadena air base). They were provided with the necessities of life in these locations. Crops in the area were also harvested under the direction of the Americans, and livestock (which was off limits to the troops) was rounded up and turned over to the civilians in the camp areas. The camps grew and at times almost overwhelmed the Americans. Camps designed to hold 10,000 quickly grew to 20,000. By June, at the conclusion of the fighting, the number of Okinawans under American custody had risen to 196,000!



Okinawan civilians, 1945

Before the war was over, the plan was to use Okinawa as a staging area for the invasion of mainland Japan and as a location for launching airplanes. Okinawans were also hired eventually to help with this goal. The ending of the war changed the strategic value of Okinawa. However, the Americans did not just walk away. After the war was over, much consideration was given by the Allies to the fate of the areas they had conquered. Truman, Marshall and MacArthur, in particular, made it clear that the mistakes of WWI could not be repeated. How the people of conquered areas were treated was important to that goal. The newly chartered United Nations held the same opinion. These places would not be turned into mandates or colonial enclaves, but instead would be trusteeships with the goal to “promote the utmost well-being of the inhabitants.” They wanted to get them back on their feet and let them determine their own destiny. Many younger Okinawans will tell you that America eventually sold Okinawa out, despite their earlier lofty goals, when Okinawa was returned to Japan.

Attention Family Archivists & Historians

by *Daniel Accrocco*

I am the son of Joseph Accrocco, Co. C, 6th Eng. Bn. I have been interested in genealogy and Sixth Marine Division history for years. Currently, I am writing a memoir about my Dad. Since he is no longer around to tell me about his experiences, I have relied on books and conversations with others. I have also discovered excellent information about his service in the Marine Corps at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)—it took my research to another level. I visited two of their locations:

- St. Louis, MO — Here I was able to see his entire personnel file, as well as those of others.
- College Park, MD — Here I found the ships' deck logs for the vessels he sailed on, plus After Action Reports that had details on his units (6th Eng. Bn and 29th Marines) and thousands of photographs taken during the Okinawa battle.

Contact information for the NARA sites is:

National Personnel Records Center for NARA
1 Archives Drive
St Louis, MO 63138
Phone: 314-801-0800

NARA
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park MD 20740
Phone: 866-272-6272

I also have located Marine Corps information on www.ancestry.com and from archives at a couple of universities.

I invite anyone interested in learning more about the records I discovered and my experiences at the NARA and elsewhere to contact me at: accrod@aol.com or 937-271-4636. I also plan to attend the reunion in August.

Donations from Caring Members and Friends

DIRECTORY

Estella Arnold
Mary Brauer
Marvin Gibson

GENERAL FUND

Estella Arnold
Mary Brauer
Marvin Gibson
Forrest Goodrich
Jayne Hoag*
Kelly Kilcoyne
David Livers*
Vicki A. MacDougall*
Wallace Pechtelt
S. Louise Ratliff*
Frank Teresi

MEMORIAL MARKER FUND

Estella Arnold
Mary Brauer
Marvin Gibson
Marion Milillo

NEWSLETTER FUND

Charles Harris, Jr.

** Over and above*

Marines Resurrect Raider Name

by *Dan Lamothe, Washington Post, 6/24/15*

After years of debate, the Marine Corps' elite Special Operations force just made a major change, adopting the name of the combat-hardened Raider units that fought in the fierce Pacific island-hopping campaign of World War II. Marine officials marked the decision Friday with a brief ceremony at Camp Lejeune, N.C., 10 months after the decision was made.

The move puts to end a long-running debate: How could Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) recognize the heritage of the fearsome Raiders while carving out its own identity as a 21st-century force involved in conflicts and secretive training missions across the globe?

Rank-and-file MARSOC Marines had called for the adoption of the Raider name for years, but it was

blocked until now-retired Commandant Gen. James F. Amos last year reversed a decision he made in 2011. Marine officials said at the time that the general wanted it to be clear to MARSOC troops that they were "Marines first."

The compromise was to adopt the Raider name for MARSOC's units, while keeping the MARSOC name for the organization itself. MARSOC also didn't adopt the iconic Raider logo — a white skull on a red diamond over a blue field with white stars — in its Raider unit insignias.

"MARSOC unit emblems will continue to use the existing blue Raider shield with Southern Cross, tying us into the Raider's rich legacy and heritage, but we will not use the Raider skull, as the legacy of the skull belongs to the Raiders of WWII," Capt. Barry Morris, a MARSOC spokesman, said in an e-mail.

Ladies Auxiliary Report



Time seems to fly when you are having fun. I have been having fun keeping up with some of the Ladies in the Auxiliary via email and Facebook, and it is so nice to stay in touch. (I would like to hear from more of you.)

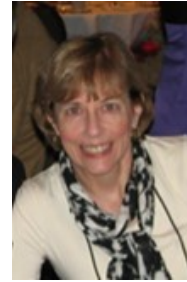
I am hoping you are having decent weather in your part of the country and not dealing with drought, flooding or tornados. Crazy weather across the US for sure.

We are excited that the Reunion in Columbus, Ohio is coming together and are anxious to show you this part of Ohio. Come early and stay

after the official reunion and check out some parts of Columbus you will get a glimpse of during the city tour. We are also anxious to see old friends and catch up on their lives and to make some new friends. There are two important things to remember about the reunion. 1) Come... and bring your family and make more memories. 2) If you have a special talent for a craft or know someone who does, bring some of the work to share in the auction. If you know someone who would be interested in donating an item to the auction, be sure to ask for a donation.

Semper Fi,
Barbara McKnight
Ladies Auxiliary President

From the Editor



I write this on June 22, the 70th anniversary of the end of the battle for Okinawa. The cover of this newsletter has photos from that momentous summer, but there are no words equal to what was accomplished by so many. All I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart for heeding the call to defend our country.

This issue brings the first of a series of articles by Watson Crumbie. I happened to learn he had given a speech on Veteran's Day and asked him if he would send me the text of that speech. He was kind enough to do that, and he also sent something he had written about his entire experience in the Marine Corps. I enjoyed it so much, I asked him if I could publish it in the Striking Sixth as a series. He gave me his permission, but he pointed out that the story is not really about him; it is about the Marines who had similar experiences. This did not surprise me. All of the Sixth Division Marines I have met exhibit the same humility and reluctance to call attention to their WWII experiences. It's so refreshing at a time when it seems everyone is taking selfies and promoting themselves every chance they get.

But Jack Lynch is right (see his letter in Mail Call, page 4). It is so important that younger generations learn about our nation's history and what happened on Okinawa. So thank you, Watson, for agreeing to share your story.

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

Interested in Hosting a Future Reunion?

The next Sixth Division reunion will probably be hosted by a lineal descendant. We know there are many capable people in this group who have probably done this kind of event in the past. As a reminder to those who might be interested, you should be looking for a venue now and getting pricing and dates to share at our General Meeting. If you are not able to make the coming reunion but would like to host the Sixth Division Reunion in 2016, please email our newsletter editor, Carroll McGowan, with what you have to share so that it can be presented at the General Meeting.

During planning for the 2015 reunion I have found that, at least in our city, the most desirable venues are booked two years in advance. So consider the reunions in both 2016 and 2017. As I understand, the Sixth Division used to plan the location of their next reunion two years in advance just for this reason. Not a bad idea for today too.

~Barbara McKnight

New Headstone for McTureous Unveiled on Memorial Day

Barb and I received a letter from a relative of Bob McTureous about the dedication of a new grave monument for Bob on May 25 (Memorial Day) in Umatilla, FL near where Bob grew up. Bob is the only Medal of Honor recipient from Lake County, FL. A boy scout in the area wanted to create a larger, more substantial headstone to replace the modest one that marked Bob's grave. He raised more than \$5,000 for the new headstone as his Eagle project. The McTureous family wanted me to attend the dedication, so how could I not go.

After the ceremony, we went to Bob's boyhood home, which has been turned into a museum in his honor. I met Bob's girlfriend and told her I saw her picture when she was 17. Bob had shown it to me when we were in Guam (before Okinawa). He told me, "I will marry her when I get back." She gave me a special hug. We also had a nice lunch with the family and friends.

As an aside, Don Mahoney and I met Bob's brother, Basil (since deceased), at the gravesite in 2003. The three of us had a picture taken similar to the one that was taken of Bob, Don and me in 1945. It's on page 3 of the Winter 2004 issue of the Striking Sixth.

~Harry McKnight



New headstone for Robert M. McTureous, Jr. 3/26/24—6/11/45

Chaplain's Report



We have been traveling, but first my thoughts as Chaplain.

It seems religion is being attacked from many sources. One thing is certain: Any religion that believes in the Ten Commandments has truth in it. "Thou shalt not kill" is a basic commandment of the Law of Moses. It has not been qualified for political reasons to justify anything.

I like the King James Version of the Bible that treats God with special respect. Thee, Thou and Thy are personal pronouns that reflect honor to our Maker. In the Marines we are taught that the first words out of our mouths are Sir or Ma'am followed by Yes Sir or No Ma'am and then continue the conversation. If a Corporal wants to speak to a Sergeant, it would be, "Sir, the Corporal would like to speak to the Sergeant." Always in the third person. When King James summoned more than 54 of the best scholars to translate the Bible from Latin

to English, and they could not agree on a certain phrase, it was recorded in italics. We are to ponder those words for meaning.

My counsel is to give respect to God, say your prayers, keep the commandments, attend your Church, read your Scriptures, and don't do dumb things.

After attending the dedication ceremony for Bob McTureous in Florida (see article on left), Barb and I met the rest of our family at Orange Lake next to Disney. We just had to introduce our great granddaughter to Mickey and Minnie.

We are looking forward to the reunion, taking care of last minute changes. At the Air Force Museum is a plaque for the Sixth Marine Division. The city bus tour will begin at the German Village and end inside the Ohio State Football Stadium. We are still working on a special Guest of Honor that all Marines will want to meet; he is almost 90. Cross your fingers. See you soon.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

Special Reunion Accommodation Offer

Several friends of ours have offered to house a 6th Marine and his family in their home during the reunion. They would like to host a Vet who has never—or not recently—been to a reunion. Some of these friends are retired military personnel who enjoy meeting other veterans. One has two or three bedrooms for a Vet and his family. Others have at least one bedroom. If you would like to join us at this reunion and have never attended or have not attended for a long time, please call and we will make arrangements for you to stay with one of our friends.

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

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

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

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

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

ABOUT THE MARRIOTT

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

If You Fly

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

If You Drive

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

ABOUT THE TOURS

Motts Military Museum Tuesday, August 18

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

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

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

Bus Tour of Columbus Wednesday, August 19

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

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

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

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

Air Force Museum Thursday, August 20

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

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



Air Force Museum

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send with your check

NO LATER THAN SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 to:

Harry McKnight
2015 Reunion
6321 Alissa Lane
Columbus, Ohio 43213

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

Phone: (614) 866-3456

e-mail: barbandht6321@aol.com

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

Please use the reverse side to calculate the amount due.

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

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

Lineal Descendant/of Whom: _____

Are you a Marine? _____ Years Served _____

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

In case of emergency during the reunion:

Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone(s): _____

____ Attending my 1st Reunion ____ Will help out

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

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

Special Needs (please specify): _____

Special Dietary Restrictions (please specify): _____

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

Please complete the reverse side.

Sixth Marine Division Association 2015 Reunion

REGISTRATION FORM

Activities and Costs

Please fill in the information below to calculate the amount due.

See the schedule on page 13 and tour details on page 14 for more information.

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

Please send this form along with your check to Harry McKnight at the address on the reverse side.

Registration Fee (to support the Hospitality Room)

6th Division Veteran: \$25 (spouses of veterans are free).....\$ _____

Other Assn. Members and Guests: # attending _____ x \$25.....\$ _____

Tuesday, August 18

Mott's Military Museum bus trip: # attending _____ x \$15.....\$ _____

Museum entrance fee: # attending _____ x \$5.....\$ _____

Wednesday, August 19

Bus Tour of Columbus: # attending _____ x \$15.....\$ _____

(Note: each person will order and pay for their own lunch at the restaurant)

Thursday, August 20

Bus tour to Air Force Museum in Dayton: # attending _____ x \$20.....\$ _____

Box lunch and beverage: # needed _____ x \$5.....\$ _____

Friday, August 21

Ladies Luncheon: # attending _____ x \$20.....\$ _____

Select one entrée per person: Club Sandwich _____

Turkey Wrap _____

Chicken Caesar Salad _____

Saturday, August 22

Dinner Banquet: # attending _____ x \$45.....\$ _____

Select one entrée per person: Fish (tilapia) _____

Chicken _____

Sirloin _____

Vegetarian _____

Total Due.....\$ _____

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

My Time as a Marine — Pearl Harbor to Camp Tarawa

FIRST OF A SERIES BY WATSON CRUMBIE (29th MAR-1-C)

When I returned home from World War II and the Korean War, my priorities were on my life as a civilian. I did not want to talk about what I had experienced. Today I frequently read letters from children whose father never talked about his war time experiences, but they want to know! They are asking if anyone knew their father; they want to know where he served and what he did. As a result, I decided to document, to the best of my memory, the time I served as a Marine from 1943 to 1952.

I find that writing about events that happened almost 70 years ago is like trying to write about your childhood. Most have been forgotten but some of the more eventful ones we tend to remember. It is also difficult to convey in words, the emotions that one experiences in combat.

After I retired in 1989, I attended a World War II reunion in San Antonio, Texas where I met with a few with whom I had served. Friendships bonded in combat are lasting and special. We laughed and we cried as we recalled memories from almost 50 years ago for the first time. It was interesting to see how these young men had aged, and I was thankful to be one of them. I have since attended many reunions and even served on the Board of Directors, but each year we shake hands more frequently

for the last time.

Life is but a journey; the route we take is not always guided by our own choices, but by fate.

My journey began on August 13, 1925, during the Great Depression in Dallas Texas. I grew up enjoying the Big Bands and music to which one could understand the words. I was attending high school when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the event that changed the course of history and my life, as well as most others my age. Killed in the attack were Robert Carlisle, who lived directly across the street from me, and Tom Neal, who lived in the next block, both sailors aboard the USS *Arizona*. Also killed was a Marine, Harold W. Hope, the brother of my future wife. All three names are engraved on the memorial.



USS *Arizona* during the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941

World War II had begun when Germany invaded Poland in 1939. The United States had managed to stay out of the war

but provided aid to the countries fighting Germany and Japan. Japan had already invaded China and other countries, as it planned to conquer all of Asia. Japan needed raw materials for the homeland, but the U.S. Navy stood in the way of its plans to expand its conquests in the Pacific. The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 was to destroy the U.S. Navy with one powerful blow.

On December 8, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared a “State of War” existed between the United States and the Empire of Japan. Japan was allied with Germany and Italy, and they were known as the “Axis.” On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. It was now a World War. The United States would now have to fight on two fronts, in Europe and the Pacific.

Patriotism ran high in the United States with many young men leaving high school to enlist. I remember how proud we were to see them home on leave, visiting school in their uniforms. I remember especially how impressed I was with those wearing Marine dress blue uniforms. I was never issued dress blues as I only served in time of conflict. I went from being a civilian to war and back twice; therefore I was never assigned to a duty station.

(continued on the next page)

My Time as a Marine

(continued from the previous page)

At age sixteen I passed a physical, along with George and Jack Gordon, brothers from my Sunday school class. My parents had to sign that I was 18 years old, and my Mother refused.

Others from my Sunday school class, brothers Earl and Jack Kerbow, were tail gunners on B-17 bombers. Earl was killed when shot down over Germany, and Jack was killed when shot down over Italy. Jack Morgan was a prisoner of war having been captured in the Philippines and was in the Bataan Death March. My best friends, Bill Zinn had joined the Navy and Charles Callaway, the Army Air Corps.

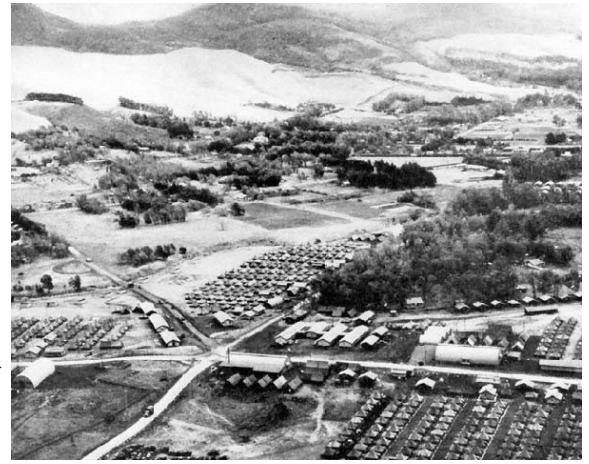
In July 1943, a month before my 18th birthday, I joined the Marines. The Sunday before I left Dallas, I was baptized in the Christian denomination. My Pastor dedicated the Sunday morning church service to me. He directed his sermon to me, saying that God did not just dwell in church on Sunday mornings but would be with me wherever I went. My Mother asked that I read the 23rd Psalm from the pulpit. I remember it well and how it helped to prepare me for the relationship that I was to have with God as I read, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you will be with me".

When I reported for duty, I was

surprised and pleased to see three of my friends from high school. We would be going as a group. We attended eight tough weeks of boot camp at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego where I learned steps were called a "ladder," the floor a "deck," the bathroom a "head," etc. We ran obstacle courses and were taught discipline; for example, if you talked without permission, you wore a bucket over your head the rest of the day. We learned that our rifles were our best friend and how to use our bayonet.

After graduation, we each received a ten-day furlough. This time I was the Marine visiting high school, but in my dress greens, which were still pretty impressive. During this time I became engaged to my high school sweetheart. After my furlough, I was sent to Camp Pendleton at Oceanside, California where I received a six-week training course on a 30 caliber light machine gun. A machine gunner's life expectancy is short, and we were trained to take his place if he was killed. At the end of the six week training, I was now ready to join the war.

I sailed on December 23, 1943 aboard the escort aircraft carrier USS *Corregidor* for Pearl Harbor. We were at sea seven days. After a short stay at Pearl City, I sailed aboard the USS *Arrow* to Hilo on the island of Hawaii where in January 1944, I was



Camp Tarawa, Hawaii, 1944

assigned to A Company, 8th Marine Regiment, in the 2nd Marine Division. The division had just returned from capturing Tarawa, a small atoll in the Marshall Islands with a valuable airfield. The Japanese commander boasted "a thousand men could not take Tarawa in a hundred years." The U.S. Military, on the other hand, thought that after a bombardment from battleships and bombs, they would capture it by noon. Instead, it took the 2nd Marine Division 72 hours and at a very high cost. Movie news reels showed the bodies of bloated, floating dead Marines, which shocked our nation. I was a replacement for one of the Marines who had been killed at Tarawa. The 2nd Marine Division Camp was on Parker Ranch on the island of Hawaii, the largest island ranch in the world. Today, a monument stands at what was the entrance to the 2nd and 5th Marine Division Camps. [pictured on next page].

I received training in the use of a C-2 explosive that came in a

(continued on the next page)

My Time as a Marine

(continued from the previous page)

satchel with a shoulder strap; it weighed twenty pounds. The strap could also be used as a sling for throwing into a cave or pillbox. My training also included the use of half pound blocks of TNT and a rocket launcher called a “bazooka.” My MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) was changed to “Infantry Assault Demolitionist.”

Platoons were randomly chosen from each regiment of the 2nd Marine Division to form a separate battalion, eventually designated as the

1st Battalion, 29th Marine Regiment of the 6th Marine Division, which was then forming on Guadalcanal. We were no longer a part of the 2nd Division, but attached to it.

In mid May 1944, we sailed with the 2nd Marine Division aboard the USS *Neville* (APA9) to invade Maui as a practice invasion. Ironically, the beach was much like the one we would invade later, complete with sugar mill, but we were not aware of this as our destination was still unknown. During the maneuvers, a Higgins boat hit the ramp of another boat that some of our

company was in, and down went the ramp at sea! Just as the last Marine crawled over into another boat, it sank.

While on liberty in Honolulu on 21 May, several LST ships loaded with ammunition for the invasion exploded. The explosions could be heard and black smoke could be seen for miles, but it was classified as confidential information. We could not write home about anything we saw or

where we were, as all mail was censored. We were not permitted to own a camera or keep a diary. Only when our letters stopped did our families know that we were at sea. My Mother told me how she would

watch the newspapers for news of an invasion, since they always listed the units involved, so she would know if I was there. She told me how she worried about me, knowing I was in combat, and how she prayed constantly for my safe return. Only now, as a parent, can I imagine the concern and heartbreak she must have felt, the tears she shed, and the prayers that she prayed each day for my safe return.

We sailed from Pearl Harbor on Memorial Day, May 30, 1944. Our desti-

nation was still “Top Secret.” We learned on June 6 about D-Day in Europe, but we were occupied with our own D-Day to come on June 15 in the Pacific. We did not learn until we were at sea that our objective was the islands of Saipan and Tinian in the northern Marianas Islands. We were told the importance of taking the islands: that Japan would be within bombing range of our new B-29 bombers. They would be able to fly from Saipan or Tinian, bomb Japan, and return in one day – a distance of 3,000 miles round trip.

At dusk one evening, I watched a torpedo wake heading for our ship, but it missed by several feet aft. Two planes were launched from our escort aircraft carrier to search for the submarine, but as daylight faded the planes returned to the carrier. Our Chaplain was asked if he considered it “Divine Intervention.” He said he did not know, but that “God works in mysterious ways.” And that we should be thankful and count our blessings.

Next issue: Saipan



Morning colors, Second Marine Division, Camp Tarawa, Hawaii, 1944



Monument to the Marines who trained at Camp Tarawa, Hawaii, dedicated 1985 & 1998

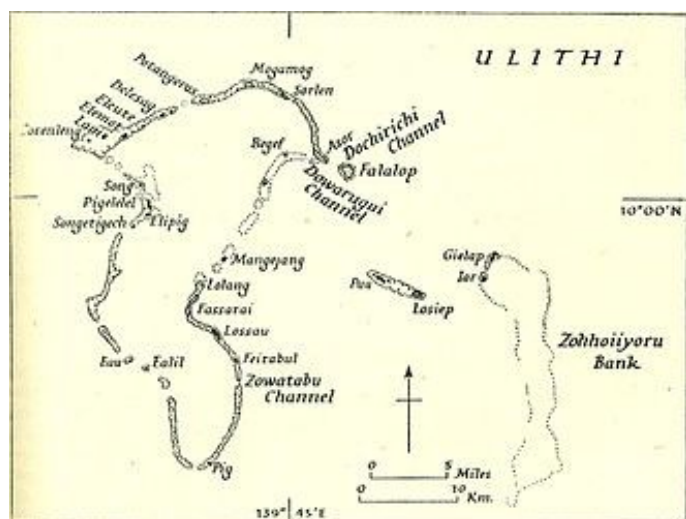
Ulithi: World's Largest Naval Facility During WWII

As the war in the Pacific moved west, the US Navy required a more forward base for operations. The Japanese had established a radio and weather station on the Ulithi Islands, but had abandoned it by 1944. An atoll in the Caroline Islands in the Western Pacific Ocean, Ulithi was perfectly positioned. It is 360 miles southwest of Guam, 850 miles east of the Philippines, and 1300 miles south of Tokyo. A typical volcanic atoll with coral, white sand and palm trees, it has three dozen tiny islands (the largest just half a square mile) rising slightly above the ocean. The reef is roughly 20 miles by 10 miles and encloses a vast anchorage with an average depth of 80 to 100 feet.



Ulithi anchorage

The U.S. Navy arrived in September 1944. They moved the 400 natives from the four largest islands and began construction. The island Asor became headquarters. Sorlen was set up as a shop for maintaining and repairing the landing craft. Mogmog was set aside for recreation; it included a 1,200-seat theatre and 500-seat chapel. The big island, Falalop, was just wide enough for a 3500-foot airstrip.



map of Ulithi

Within a month of the occupation, an entire floating base was in operation. It served as a vast floating service station enabling the entire Pacific fleet to operate at unprecedented distances from its mainland bases. By March 13, 1945 there were 647 ships at anchor at Ulithi. With the arrival of amphibious forces staging for the invasion of Okinawa, the number of ships at anchor peaked at 722.

Japanese Attacks on Ulithi

On November 20, 1944, the Ulithi harbor was attacked by Japanese kaiten (manned suicide torpedoes) launched from two submarines. The fleet oiler USS *Mississinewa*, at anchor in the harbor, was struck and sunk. A second kaiten attack in January 1945 was foiled when the *I-48* was sunk by the destroyer escort USS *Conklin*. None of the 122 men aboard the Japanese submarine survived.



liberty on Mogmog

On March 11, 1945, several long range aircraft flying from southern Japan attempted a nighttime kamikaze attack on the naval base. One struck the aircraft carrier USS *Randolph*, which had left

continued on next page

Ulithi

(continued from the previous page)

a cargo light on, despite the black out. The plane struck over the stern starboard quarter, damaging the flight deck and killing a number of crewmen. A young Marine Corps pilot, Samuel Hynes, training with his squadron on Ulithi, went on to write a memoir of his time in the Marines, including the passage below about the attack.



above: USS *Mississinewa* burns and sinks after attack by Japanese kaiten, November 20, 1944; left: Ulithi R&R



Out in the lagoon the warships gathered and waited, but as we flew over them, coming and going on our solitary patrols, they did not look like menacing machines designed to burn and drown men, but like delicate abstractions – slender, tapered shapes at rest on the smooth bright water, part of the static pattern of our lives.

And so when the air-raid sirens began to howl one evening in the early dark, we took it for a drill. After all, the nearest Japanese planes were away off in the Philippines, and there weren't many of them left even there.

As the island lights went out, we left the club and gathered curiously at the lagoon-end of the landing strip, and watched the fleet black out – a ship here, a ship there, one or two of the big ones delaying, and then suddenly blinking out, until at last the whole lagoon was dark. Not a very successful drill, I thought; it had been far too slow.

And then, astonishingly, anti-aircraft

guns began to fire, and tracers sprayed up into the darkness, as though the lights that had burned across the waters of the lagoon were being hurled into the sky. I began to feel exposed, standing there on the runway while the guns fired; but no one else moved, so I didn't.

Across the lagoon a plane screamed into a dive, higher and higher pitched, and there was a flash and an explosion, and an instant later another explosion in what seemed the center of the moored ships. Then darkness and silence, until the all-clear sounded, and lights began to come on in the harbor again.

It had been a kamikaze raid. The Japanese planes had flown all the way from the main islands, touching at the Philippines. They had planned to refuel at Yap, and then fly on to attack the fleet at Ulithi; but bad navigation, bad weather, bad luck, whatever it was, had delayed them, and sent some planes back.

Others had crash-landed on the Yap

beach. Only three reached Ulithi. One was shot down; one crashed into the deck of the carrier *Randolph*, where the crew was crowded into the hangar deck watching a movie; and one, taking an island for a large ship, dove on *Mogmog* and blew up a kitchen.

The whole lasted perhaps fifteen minutes. We were excited by it – perhaps entertained is a more precise word – it was a spectacle, like a *son et lumière*, with noise, light, explosions.

We didn't know what was happening to human lives while we watched, but even if we had, I wonder if it would have mattered. We were a mile or so from the *Randolph*, and perhaps a mile is too far to project the imagination to another man's death. We took it as a sign that the war was still with us, that we still had an enemy, and went to bed heartened by the incident.

- from *Flights of Passage: Recollections of a World War II Aviator* by Samuel Hynes

The Real Meaning of Memorial Day: Larry Maxam

by Dennis McCarthy, LA Daily News, 5/25/15

The kid died a month after his 20th birthday in a jungle a million miles from his Burbank home doing something so outrageously courageous he was awarded the Medal of Honor for it.

Larry Maxam was his name, and before we begin filling our propane tanks, roasting the hot dogs and cracking open a beer, I'd like to tell you his story.

Because, to me, he is the perfect face of Memorial Day. The guy we should all be thanking this weekend.

Sometimes we lose track of what Memorial Day is all about. It's not a patriotic celebration of military might, but a remembrance of the 1 million plus casualties of all our wars who never made it home.

Most of them were still kids, really, like Maxam.

His buddies from Vietnam say he was a friendly, quiet guy who wore his Mormon religion on his sleeve right next to his corporal stripes.

"Other guys would go out, get rowdy, whatever, but not him," says Larry Clinesmith, who shared a foxhole with Maxam. "He was quiet, always looking to help the new guys coming into the platoon."

No one ever made the quiet kid from California as a hero.

The night he died, Feb. 2, 1968, Maxam was in charge of a fire team of four men protecting part of a defensive perimeter set up around the Cam Lo District Marine headquarters.

Sometime around midnight, the VC — Viet Cong — threw everything they had at the perimeter. Maxam spotted a hole in the defense where a large group of VC was gathering for a full frontal attack.

He got there before they could break through, set himself up behind an abandoned machine-gun placement, and began firing.

What happened next earns you the Medal of Honor.

"A direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade knocked him backwards, inflicting severe fragmentation wounds to Corporal Maxam's face and right eye," reads his citation.

Stunned and in immense pain, the quiet kid from California got back up and kept firing.

"The North Vietnamese threw hand grenades and directed recoilless rifle fire against him, inflicting more wounds."

Still, Maxam kept firing, pinning the enemy back. Finally, too weak to reload his machine gun, he fell to the ground and continued to fire with his rifle.

He was dying and he had to know it. But the VC wasn't getting by him while he had a breath left in his body.

"After one and a half hours, during which he was hit repeatedly by fragments from exploding grenades and concentrated small arms fire, Corporal Maxam succumbed to his wounds," the citation reads.

"He had successfully defended nearly half of the perimeter sin-

gle-handedly."

He was laid to rest in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Oahu, Hawaii, and awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously by President Richard Nixon six months later.

Back home in Burbank, the news barely made a ripple. It was the same all over the country. Our young men dying in jungles a million miles from home were being treated as collateral damage in a war few wanted to recognize any more.

Now, it's 47 years later, and I'm sitting on a park bench in Burbank this week watching two little girls squeal with joy as they go down the slide yelling for their mothers to look at them.

In a few days, this park will be packed with families enjoying a picnic on Memorial Day, and I can't help but wonder if any of them will stop and read the words on a beautiful, granite memorial stone explaining who the park was renamed for in 2010.

A local kid who grew up in the neighborhood and played here as a boy before turning 18 and leaving home for a jungle a million miles away.

Burbank's only Medal of Honor recipient — Larry L. Maxam.

The quiet kid from California we should all be thanking this weekend.



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.

BENEDETTI, Angela	Wife of Alio Benedetti	04/15/2015
CAPATANOS, George	22 nd Mar-1-Wpns	03/13/2015
DURR, David E.	29 th Mar-3-K	03/23/2015
FREDERICK, John	22 nd Mar-H&S	03/28/2015
GORSKI, Francis D.	4 th Marines	05/06/2015
JOHNSON, Arnold (Arnie)	29 th Mar-2-E	01/14/2015
McCONVILLE, Joseph	15 th Mar-4-K	05/04/2015
McCOY, Jr., Charles E.	2 nd Mar-3-L	05/21/2015
McCULLOUGH, Elmo	22 nd Mar-1-B	06/14/2015
MONTE, Joseph L.	6 th Service Bn	03/18/2015
SMITH, James A.	15 th Mar-1-H&S	06/06/2015

Francis “Frank” Gorski, Proud Marine



Corporal Francis D. Gorski, 95, died May 3, 2015 at the NH Veterans Home in Tilton, NH following a brief illness. He was born in Manchester, NH and was a lifelong resident. He was a retired loom fixer and was predeceased by his wife Mari-on in 2003.

Frank served his country in the NH 172nd Field Artillery Battery E. from 1938 to 1939. During WWII, he served with the 4th Marines 6th Division for three years and participated in the Okinawa invasion. He held life memberships in the Sixth Marine Division Association, VFW Post 8546 of Salem, NH and

AMVETS Post 2 of Salem. Frank was also a charter member of Catholic War Veterans St. Hedwig Post 1341 and a life member of the VFW National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. He volunteered 2,850 hours at the Manchester V.A. Hospital and was involved in the Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration.

His family would like to extend their gratitude to the NH Veterans Home, the Manchester V.A. Medical Center and many friends, family and Marine Brothers, all of whom were held close to Frank's heart.

Seabee on Okinawa



William Wallace "Bill" Golden, 88, passed away April 5, 2015, in Chandler, TX. He was born Feb. 18, 1927 in Mount Hope, Alabama.

Bill was proud to serve in the United States Navy in the 58th Seabees during World War II. He made the Okinawa landing on April 1, 1945 and was instrumental in erecting the Sixth Marine Division Cemetery in Okinawa with fellow Seabees.



Sixth Marine Division Cemetery, Okinawa

Message from the Membership Manager



As you all know, the Sixth Marine Division Reunion is right around the corner and from the questions I have received,

many of you plan to attend and are looking forward to seeing old buddies again. Take a moment and check your label on the Striking Sixth newsletter to be sure your dues have been paid for 2015. Dues must be paid before you can attend the reunion.

Thinking of old buddies, if you have a friend who has passed away and you didn't let Harry

McKnight or me know, please take a moment and call us so he can be properly memorialized at the Memorial Service. So few Marines are being reported at this time that I know some are being forgotten. Since the program for the Memorial Service is printed before the service, the program will be up to date and it will also keep our records current.

Lastly I would like to bring your attention to "Mail Call." There are two special letters to which you may want to pay attention and reply to. The first is from Marine Jack E. Lynch who is still waiting to hear from anyone

who was in the 29th Marines-B-1. The other is from the daughter of a Marine, Cheryl Wyman, who is researching information regarding her Dad's time in the Marine Corps.

Respectfully submitted,
Flo Dornan
Membership Manager
817-275-1552

sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net



MEMBERSHIP STATUS @ June 15, 2015

Regular Members	1,168
Associate Members	628
Lineal Descendants	147
Honorary Members	8
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	1,951
(dues paid for 2015-2020)	

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS @ June 15, 2015

Paid for 2014	127
Paid for 2015	132
Paid for 2016-2024	132
Honorary Members	8

New Members

ANDREW, JANILYN R.
ID #5586
Reinstated Annual Associate LD
Daughter of Bryce F. Hill, Jr.
(22nd Mar-B-1)
252 Dover Court
Dimondale, MI 48821
517-345-7808
lv60smply@gmail.com

KILCOYNE, KELLY M.
ID #6219
Life Associate LD
Son of Robert Joseph Kilcoyne
(4th Mar-3-K)
Melissa French, Spouse
614 S Grant Street
San Mateo, CA 94402-1340
415-225-3970
kkmft@yahoo.com

MAC DOUGALL, VICKI
ID #6218
Life Associate LD
Daughter of Dan MacDougall
(15th Mar-3-G)
2244 New York Avenue
Bensalem, PA 19020-7265
215-639-3431
mzmac3@comcast.net

Membership Application / Change of Address Form

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail Address _____

Company _____ Battalion _____ Regiment _____ Other _____

If this is a change of address, enter your 4 digit ID#, which is on the left, right above your name, on the mailing label _____

Old Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

If you are applying for membership as an Associate Member, provide name of relative who served with the Sixth Marine Division:

Relative's Name _____ Relationship _____

His unit within the Division, if known _____

Annual dues (\$10 per year).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____.....Amount due: \$ _____

Life Membership (\$75).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____.....Amount due: \$ _____

Newsletter Subscriptions

Subscription to the Striking Sixth Newsletter of the Sixth Marine Division (\$10 per year).....Amount due: \$ _____

Annual dues and subscriptions to the newsletter are based on a calendar year

Additional copies of the newsletter are \$3.50

Donations

Membership Directory Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

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

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

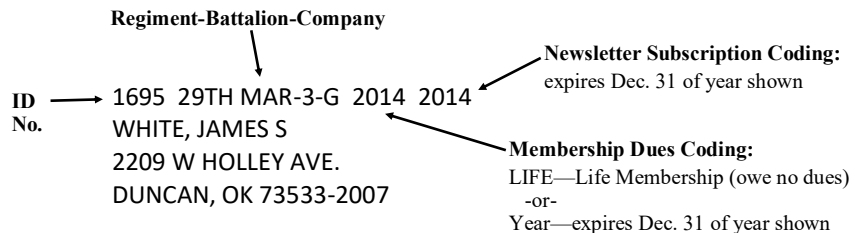
Make check payable to The Sixth Marine Division Association Total Enclosed: \$ _____

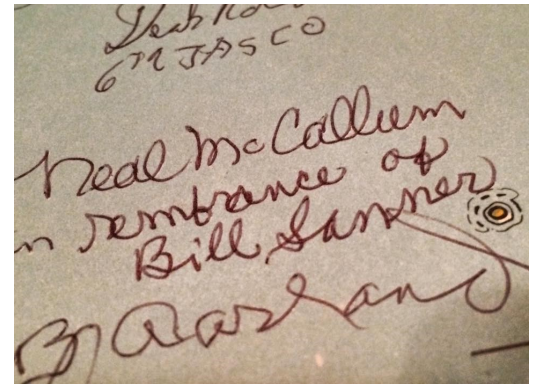
Mail to: Florence R. Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011

E-mail: Sxthmardiv@sbeglobal.net Phone: (817) 275-1552

Please remember: Membership dues are separate from Newsletter subscriptions. To continue receiving the Newsletter, you must pay for a subscription each year, even if you are a Life Member of the Association. Check the back of the newsletter to see when your current membership and newsletter subscription expires. See coding instructions below.

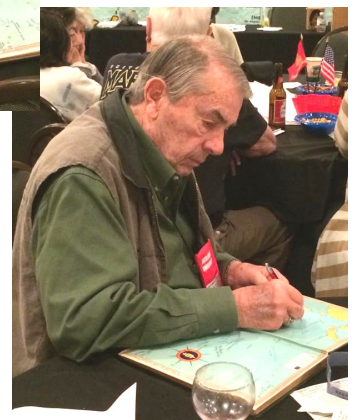
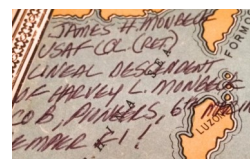
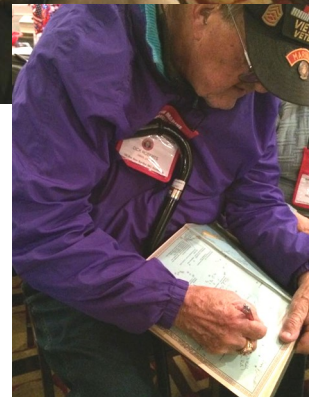
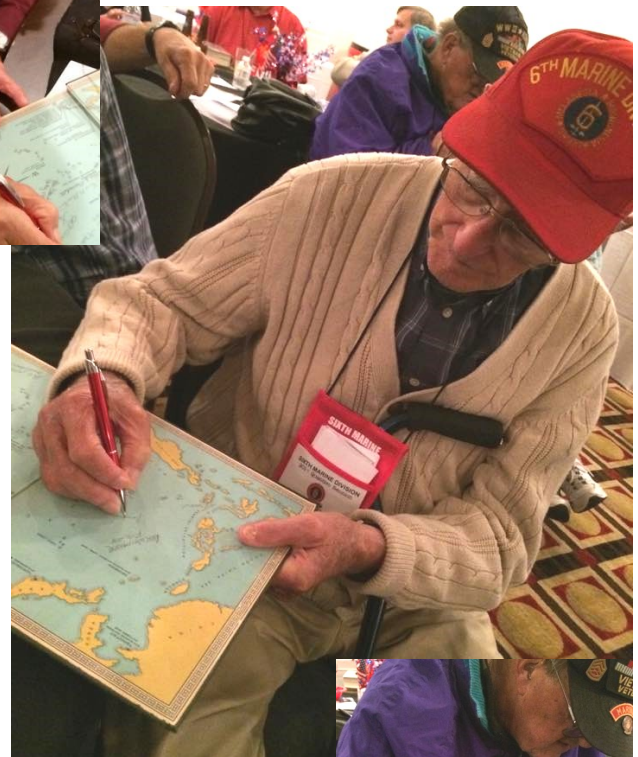
Check your address on the back cover to see if your membership and newsletter are paid up to date.
If there is no barcode on your label, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Please contact your Post Office.



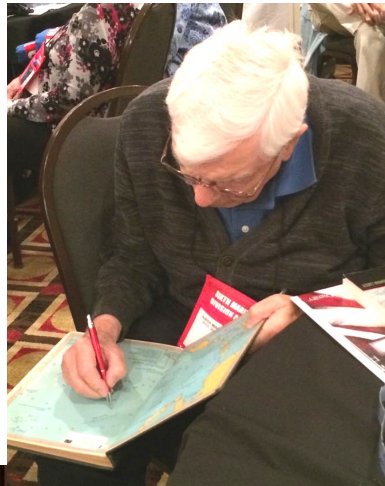
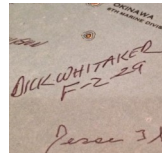
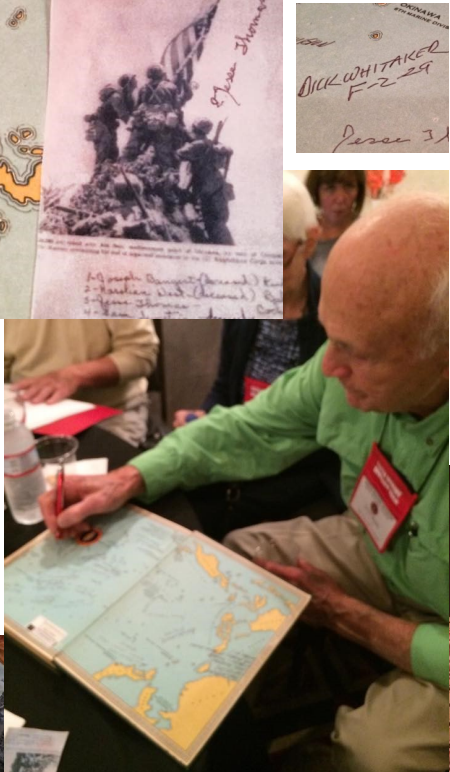
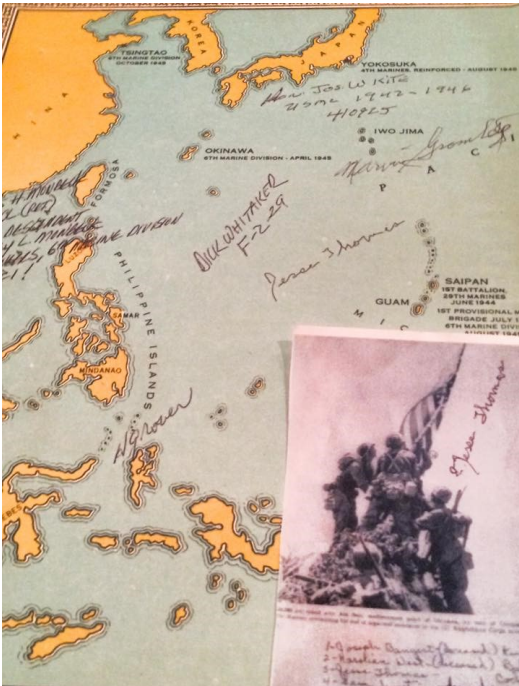
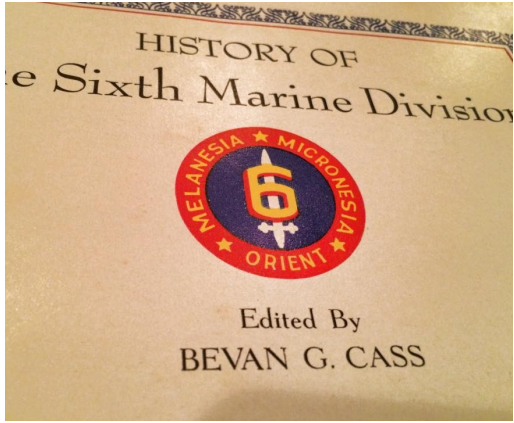


Auction Purchase Is a Cherished Keepsake for Paul Sanner

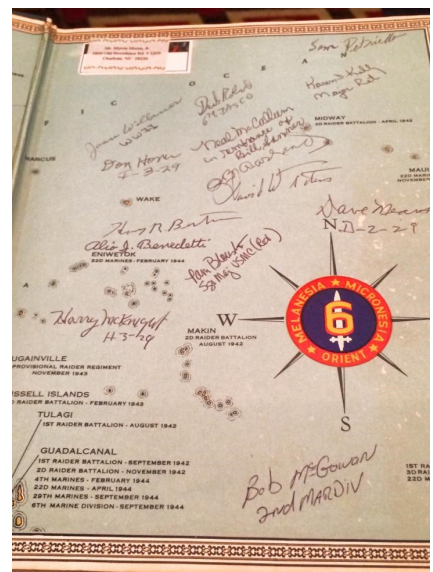
Everyone who has attended recent reunions knows that the auction is one of the liveliest events of the week. Those that bid — and win — go away happy. At the 2014 Reunion, one of the happiest bidders was lineal descendent, Paul Sanner, who won the book, *The History of the Sixth Marine Division*. It was a treasured acquisition for Paul, but he made it even more valuable when he asked the Marines that were attending the reunion to sign his book. Pictured are some of those who provided their autographs. Way to go, Paul!



clockwise from top left: Joseph Kite, Neal McCallum, Jesse Thomas, Dick Roberts, Dick Whitaker, David Titus, Harry Grover, Alio Benedetti



clockwise from top left: Harry McKnight, Harry Bertram, Marvin Gromley, Don Honis, Ozzie Aasland, David Mears, Joan Willauer



Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011



Striking Sixth Newsletter

Summer 2015

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit # 1040
Leesburg, FL
34748

Don't forget -
Make your hotel
reservations and
send in your
registration form
for the 2015
6MarDiv Reunion.

See pages
2, 13, 14, 15 & 16
for more
information.



**"Freedom is not free,
but the U.S. Marine Corps will pay most of your share."
~Captain J. E. "Ned" Dolan, USMC (Ret.)**

Anti-aircraft fire lights the sky during the Battle for Okinawa 70 years ago