

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 43 No. 1

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2018



Baltimore is Ready for Us!

HILTON BALTIMORE BWI AIRPORT HOTEL ~ AUGUST 21-26

We're excited to bring you the details of the 2018 Reunion in Baltimore, Maryland that will be hosted by Patty Payne (daughter of Jim McGuigan, 29th Mar-3-G). Patty has a great lineup of activities and field trips planned, including the spectacular Marine Corps Evening Parade at 8th and I!

We're also excited to tell you that the Board of Directors of the Association voted to cover some of the costs of the Reunion for our treasured veterans.

There will be no charge for the Hospitality Room or the Dinner Banquet on Saturday night for Sixth Division Marines, wives and widows!

Inside you'll find everything you need to know about the Reunion, including the Registration Form. You must send it to Sharon Woodhouse **by July 31**.

Please plan to join us for another heartwarming and fun-filled reunion! One thing we have learned -- this group knows how to have a good time!

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2018 Reunion — To Do List

1. Make your hotel reservations

Go to our special Hilton reunion website. Find the link on the Sixth Marine Division website (sixthmarinedivision.com). Click on 6th Div Assn, then Reunions, then 2018 Reunion.

- or -

Call 800-445-8667 and ask for the Sixth Marine Division 2018 Reunion at the Hilton BWI Airport to get our special rates.

onsite
restaurant
and bar



2. Send in your Registration Form.

You'll find it on pages 15-16 along with the instructions on where to send it.

3. Make your transportation arrangements.

Flying? The Hilton has a free 24/7 airport shuttle. (Call 410-694-0808 for pickup.)

Driving? The Hilton has free parking.

meeting space



4. If you have any questions...

Call or email Patty Payne:

(410) 978-2979

pjpayne1984@verizon.net

indoor pool



DEADLINE — JULY 31

**for hotel reservations and
Registration Form**

lobby



**For all the details about the Reunion
including hotel, field trips,
schedule of events and
Registration Form,
please see pages 10-16.**

95-Year-Old Fred Bennett Wrestles Burglar to the Ground

TO WHICH WE SAY: NEVER MESS WITH A MARINE! OR HIS DAUGHTER!

by Jane Ford-Steward, Now News Group, December 13, 2017

There is one alleged burglar in town who wishes he had never stepped into the home of 95-year-old former Marine Fred Bennett and his daughter who is just as fearless.

The World War II veteran of the war in the Pacific wrestled the alleged burglar to the ground. Then his 51-year-old daughter Mary chased him over fences and through yards and finally caught him six blocks away.

"I was mad because of what he did to my dad," said Mary. When she rushed down the steps at her father's call, she found her dad on the floor with his arms wrapped around the intruder's legs who was standing up by that time.

The Marine and retired West Allis firefighter said he had been sitting in the living room about 7:45 p.m. December 4 when their little dog started barking toward the hallway.

"He must have seen him," said Fred. When he opened a back bedroom door, he said, "I was almost standing nose to nose with him. That was a shocker."

The man of action rose up within the 95-year-old and he shouted at the intruder, "Get the hell out of here."

But instead, the man demanded Fred's wallet. "Or I'm going to kill you and kill your dog," Fred remembered the man saying. But the threat backfired.

"I wasn't scared. I was so damn mad," said the tough Marine.

Fred pinned the man against the



Fred Bennet with his son, Jerry at the 2013 Reunion in Quantico

door, but the thief was able to reach back and lift the wallet out of Fred's pocket.

Then Fred wrestled the man to the floor and called for his daughter.

"I don't remember my feet touching the steps," so quickly did she fly downstairs to her father's aid, said Mary. She immediately threw her arms around the intruder, hoping to keep him there until help could be summoned.

In a struggle that ranged into the kitchen, Mary got the wallet away from the burglar. She decided, however, to let him go after he drew back his fist and threatened to punch her.

The intruder was out the door, but he wasn't home free. Mary was right on his heels.

"We jumped over two fences and ran through 12 yards," Mary said. All the way she was knocking on windows and yelling to neighbors to call police, that she was chasing a robber. She found out afterward that some did call. Police may have used those calls to track the chase, she said.

It was a funny thing, Mary said. The burglar didn't seem to be running at top speed. Instead he

was jogging. However, that may have been top speed for the burglar who was 53.

"I could have caught him at any point. But I didn't want to tackle him because nobody knows I'm out here," she said.

She could hear police cars in the neighborhood, but when she saw a squad coming, Mary went into action.

"Then I got a hold of him," she said. It wasn't hard, as his leg had gotten caught on the top of a picket fence.

During the chase, the man had pleaded for her to stop, saying he was sorry.

But after he was taken into custody, she chided him saying, "He fought for your freedom, and you're doing this."

Looking back, Mary said she could see how her father's background as a Marine and as a firefighter explained his bold reaction to the situation. However, she was a little amazed at her own reaction. Far from being used to action, she is an event planner.

"It was just reflexes," Mary said. "I guess it rubbed off from my father."

Father and daughter are both level-headed, however. Mary said that she would not have done what she did if the burglar had a gun.

Similarly, Fred laughed as he said, "After it was all over, I thought, boy, that was a dumb thing I did."

Barney Cox (29th Mar-2-HQ)

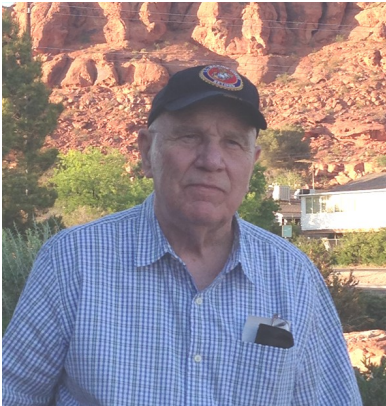
Hello Connie,

I am not sure if you are the person to report my change of address to, but if not, would you please forward it to the correct person.

I am attaching a couple of pictures for the newsletter. Dad turned 90 last year and still talks about the great men he worked with in the Sixth Marine Division. He currently resides on the Central Coast of California with one of my siblings.

Semper Fi!

Thank you for your help and best regards,
Marion George
Daughter of GYSGT
Barney R. Cox



Barney Cox, above;
below with daughter, Marion George
on Father's Day 2014



Update on Colors

Carroll, Connie and Flo,

My grandson, Cpl Micah Crumbie USMC, was at the National Museum of the Marine Corps recently and inquired about the status of our 6th Marine Division Colors. He received the reply below from Owen Conner, a curator at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Micah,

I received your comment regarding the 6th Marine Division's colors. You have great timing as this has been a topic of discussion (literally) the past few days here.

As of now the colors are still at MCRD San Diego. But in the near term, we are looking into various shipping plans to have the flag professionally packed and shipped to the NMMC. My concern is that the flag is damaged and in need of conservation, so this prohibits us from simply de-framing it and placing it in a box to mail.

At worse case scenario, the flag may stay at San Diego into the spring of 2018. If this occurs, I will likely be going to California myself to inspect it and safely de-install. Either way: the colors will come home the National Museum. We just want to make sure it is done professionally and carefully.

v/r,
Owen Linlithgow Conner
Curator, Uniforms & Heraldry
NMMC

Watson Crumbie



Friends Reunited After 50 Years

Dear Connie:

I had two friends, Buzzy Fox and Ed Galuska (Silver Star and Purple Heart on Okinawa) who were in G/22/2 as machine gunners at Sugar Loaf. Both have died, but I think of them often.

Recently, I came across a local newspaper article on my computer, probably from 2005 or so. *[See article on the next page.]* At any rate, I thought that the 6th Division Newsletter might be interested in the story.

Having lost touch with Galuska after the war, Buzzy had been looking for Galuska for over 50 years. What the attached article does not mention is that Galuska was homeless, living under a bridge within a few miles of Buzzy's home for decades. Buzzy finally found him and got him into a residence in NJ. My time with them listening to their stories before their deaths was priceless.

Richard Cerbone
rrcerbone@verizon.net



**Reminder --
Newsletter dues
for 2018 are due now!
Even if you are a lifetime
Association member,
you must pay for your
newsletter each year.**

6th Division Marines Reunited After More Than 50 Years

by Colin McEvoy, *The Herald*, May 2005

Memorial Day is a solemn time to honor those who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom. But the Newton Veterans of Foreign Wars are using the holiday to celebrate the service of a modest World War II hero who's still alive.

Edward W. Galuska of Newton, who has been largely silent about earning a Purple Heart and a Silver Star as a machine gunner in the Pacific Theater, highlights the VFW's Memorial Day celebration. His service with the Marines was brought to the VFW's attention by Richard Cerbone, a friend of Edward "Buzzy" Fox, one of Galuska's war buddies.

"My gosh, it was 60 years ago," Galuska said Saturday when told of the tribute. "To honor me ...," his voice trailed off as he shook his head, a smile showing beneath his white mustache.

Monday's ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. at the VFW Post, 85 Mill St. It is open to the public.

Pfc. Galuska served with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Marines during World War II and was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the Battle of Okinawa.

After joining the Marines at age 18, Galuska and Fox, his ammunition carrier, undertook the dangerous job of carrying his heavy weaponry into enemy territory and intense fire. Having been in action longer, Galuska took Fox under his wing and together the two shared foxholes, dodged enemy grenades and fought for their lives and for their country, Cerbone said.

While going forward into Okinawa, Galuska found himself under attack by enemy machine gunners already set up and laying in wait. Rather than retreating to cover, Galuska went into action and eliminated the gunners.

When his own machine gun was disabled by enemy fire, Galuska rushed into the battlefield, braving gunfire and capturing an en-

emy machine gun. Galuska then turned the gun against his attackers, helping his company advance, Cerbone said. In addition to the Silver Star, Galuska received a Purple Heart after being shot in the wrist by an enemy machine gun.

Galuska and Fox went their separate ways after their service — Galuska as a tool-and-die maker; Fox as a factory manager.

When they reunited after 45 years, Galuska was shocked to find they'd both been living in Union County all along.

Galuska, now 79, has spent the last two years at the Merriam House, a Newton retirement home, where not even fellow residents know of his experiences in World War II, Cerbone said.

"My impression of him was that, after all he did for his country, he's totally anonymous in society," Cerbone said. "He's a disappearing breed, (and) it's just unfortunate that our society forgets people like this."

right: Midshipmen Doing Pushups at the Naval Academy in Annapolis

Who Thinks Harry McKnight Can Take Them On?!!!



War Taught Track Great and Hometown Hero, Harry McKnight, that Little Things Matter

by Rob Oller, *Columbus Dispatch*, December 11, 2017

Harry McKnight sat in his favorite chair chronicling his big life. Standout high school athlete at East. Marine who came under fire on Okinawa in World War II. Varsity O pole vaulter at Ohio State. Longtime teacher and coach at East and Walnut Ridge. Air National Guardsman who lent medical support during the Berlin Wall Crisis in 1961. Co-founder of the Ohio Track Club.

One story after another, each account topping the next. Big. Bigger. Biggest. And when our interview time was nearly up, when the chuckles stopped, the emotional flashbacks ended and the animated gestures ceased, the 91-year-old Columbus resident leaned forward to share the secret of a life well-lived.

“Pay attention to the small things,” he said, a knowing smile sneaking from the corner of his mouth. “It’s the small things that will get you killed. Or save you.”

After taking me on a journey of incredible size and scale, McKnight pulled it back, explaining that even the tallest skyscraper begins with a single brick. Ignore the details, no matter how small, and the gigantic never takes shape. The soldier never makes it off the Pacific island alive. The athlete never rises above average. The coach’s legacy dies on the vine. Everyone misses out.

Instead, McKnight has paid attention to the small things, and his former students and athletes, the Columbus community and the nation have benefited. The latest of many tributes arrived Dec. 2 when United States of America Track and Field honored McKnight and Jim Lorimer with its first Alumni Hometown Hero Award at the Jesse Owens awards banquet in Columbus.

“Harry impacted the future of women’s track and

field in America, so when you do that it goes on forever,” said Laurie Barr, who became part of the Ohio Track Club in 1971 after McKnight and Lorimer opened the club to women in 1959, before even most high schools offered girls track. “He gave his life to the sport, and his wife, Barbara, was right there, too.”

Harry and Barbara have been married 58 years, and while there were times she felt like a track widow, with her husband traveling both in the U.S. and internationally, it is Barbara who brings out the scrapbooks to brag on her man. And it is Barbara who makes sure to point out that Harry works out three times a week and still does push-ups like a champ, including at this year’s Ohio State-Army game when he joined members of OSU ROTC in doing a push-up for every Buckeyes point scored.

But that’s kid’s stuff compared to the ups and downs McKnight has dealt with since coming to Columbus from Detroit at age 2.

His stories are, in a word, mesmerizing. And no matter the scope, they all start with a small action that led to a bigger insight.

One such little story that resulted in a huge save: It is early 1945 and McKnight is sweating his way through Marine basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina. His drill sergeant orders him to step forward and turn “right face.” Except in the stress of the moment Harry turns left.

“He comes up and starts kicking me in the shin,” McKnight said, wincing at the memory. “He says, ‘The swollen one is your right side.’ I was very careful from then on.”



Harry and Barbara McKnight at the 2016 Reunion

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Harry McKnight

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Jump ahead a few months to Sugar Loaf Hill on Okinawa, where 240 men from C Company went up and only 16 came back down, making it among the bloodiest battles of the war.

McKnight was part of a machine gun platoon with the 6th Marine Division when he found himself positioned between two friends atop a ridge, looking down on nine Japanese machine gunners.

He picks up the story: “They can’t see me and I start picking them off. Got eight but could not find the ninth and the sergeant who followed us up yells, ‘Guys, we gotta move out.’ I tell him there is one more and the guy laying next to me, (Wilford) McDermott, stands up and I say, ‘McDermott, get down. There’s one more.’ And he says ‘Yeah yeah.’”

A pause and a swallow.

“Right between the eyes. Crap.”

As a track coach, McKnight relied on the small things to achieve big results. Like where exactly to hand off a baton in the relay exchange zone. And he always had his athletes’ best interests in mind.

If you bump into Harry, offer a salute. A small thing that would go over big.

Dick Whitaker Honored for Volunteer Service

We all know about, and appreciate, Dick Whitaker’s service during World War II. But did you know that for many years Dick has volunteered his services at Patriots Point? A maritime museum in Mount Pleasant, SC, Patriots Point is the home of the World War II aircraft carrier USS Yorktown.

On November 13, 2017, Dick and three other veterans of World War II were honored by the museum for their service in the volunteer program.

Congratulations, Dick!



Dick Whitaker (with wife Eileen) gets a standing ovation



USS Yorktown at Patriots Point, Mount Pleasant, SC

Francis Scott Key's Fourth Stanza

by Thomas McGinley, *The American Thinker*, September 14, 2014

In recognition of our upcoming reunion in Baltimore, 6th Marine Division Assn. Historian Laura Lacey recommended we run this article about the Star-Spangled Banner. The lyrics to our national anthem were written in Baltimore in 1814.

Two hundred years ago today, it was the unlikely convergence of a physician and a lawyer that produced the most recited poem in American history. Its inspiration occurred just a few miles from Fort McHenry, located in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, the site of one of our nation's most important military conflicts.

Here's the background leading up to the legendary battle, well, one-sided bombardment really. In mid-1812 the Americans and British found themselves at war with each other for the second time in just over 30 years, this time mostly over the trade restrictions and freedom of seas.

Over the next two years until the spring of 1814, the British were prevented from giving their full effort against the relatively weak Americans due to the greater threat of Napoleon's seemingly endless years of aggression in Europe and northern Africa.

With Napoleon no longer a danger following his abdication in April 1814, the British could now concentrate their efforts on the pesky Americans.

To recapture their prized former colonies, they devised a powerful three-prong military strategy.

The northern assault was to sail down Lake Champlain toward New York to cut off much of New England. The southern strategy was to seize New Orleans, then sail up the Mississippi to capture and secure the western borders. But perhaps the most important of the three prongs was to sail up the Chesapeake and take possession of Baltimore. If the British could capture this vitally important American port city, the young nation would be

split in two and quickly fall.

By late August 1814, the British had captured DC, burning many of its newly constructed national buildings including the White House and Capitol. (This was the last time non-military buildings had been burned by a foreign enemy prior to September 11, 2001.) Shortly, thereafter, British General Robert Ross also captured an elderly American physician, Dr. William Beanes, for imprisoning British deserters.

A young lawyer and friend of Dr. Beanes, Francis Scott Key, boarded the ship on which Beanes was being held to negotiate his freedom. Ross was willing to let Beanes go but his release would have to wait for the invasion of Baltimore (including the Battle of North Point, the land assault where Ross was killed), and the subsequent bombardment of Fort McHenry was about to commence.



Illustration of the bombardment of Fort McHenry

The British fleet could launch its attack from a distance of about two miles, beyond the fort's retaliatory capability. For 25 hours the fleet fired its continuous but inaccurate barrage without any risk to its ships.

From their location, a couple of miles distant on an enemy ship, Beanes and Key watched the

bombardment with great concern. During the dark of night, they could see the American flag flying above the fort illuminated by the British rockets' "red glare" exploding above the "ramparts" or the walls of the fort.

In the early morning hours of September 14, 1814, the shelling stopped and the bay was eerily still. Beanes and Key knew then that if the British had

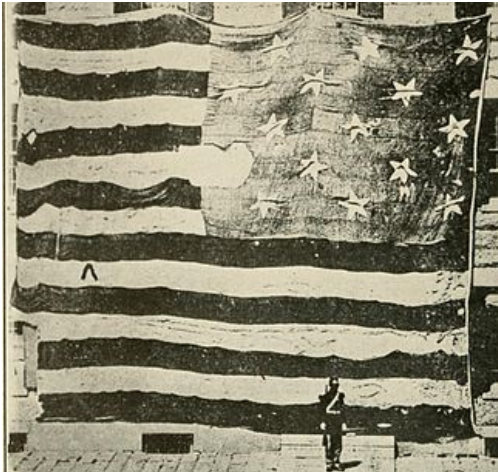
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Striking Sixth

Francis Scott Key's Fourth Stanza (cont.)

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prevailed, their beloved young nation was likely to perish. Or, as they prayed, the Americans had held the fort preserving the city and likely the republic.

Just before dawn, fog and smoke cruelly reduced visibility on the bay. It was likely that the elderly, poorer eyesighted Dr. Beanes both fearfully and hopefully asked the fa-



15-star/15-stripe flag that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814

amous question to the much younger Key: "Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?" In other words, does our great flag still fly above the fort?

The first stanza of Key's poem, "Defense of Fort McHenry," which would, of course, later become our national anthem, is entirely a series of unanswered questions, including its concluding line: "Oh! Say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

The two men had yet to realize that not only had the brave Americans held the fort, but at the dawn's first light they had hoisted an enormous flag (40 feet in length on a 90 foot pole), audaciously and defiantly waving at the unsuccessful British fleet.

The answer to Beanes' questions and their quiet celebration (after all they were in the midst of the enemy) upon Key's sighting of the oversized American flag flying above the fort doesn't appear until half-way through the second stanza. Their public celebration may have been low-key, so to speak, but you can easily feel the great raw emotion, the

jubilation, emanating from Key's words:

"On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dreadful silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, O'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"

Key, not surprisingly, gloats over the failure of the British in the third stanza which was mostly dropped after they became our Allies in the 20th century.

But the poem/song's most powerful stanza is its last. In the fourth stanza Key proclaims the primary reason for the republic's survival and a divine hope for its glorious future:

"Oh! thus be it ever; when freeman shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued
land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a
nation.

Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,
And this be our motto- "In God is our trust."

And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Written 200 years ago. Few words choke me up more.

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/09/francis_scott_keys_fourth_stanza.html



Fort McHenry today

2018 Reunion -- All About Baltimore



Washington Monument in Baltimore

WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

- The first Post Office System in the United States was inaugurated in Baltimore in 1774.
- Snowballs -- as in snow cones or slushies -- were first invented in Baltimore during the Revolutionary War.
- The first umbrella factory in the country was established in Baltimore in 1828.
- Baltimore is home to the nation's first monument to George Washington (constructed 1815-1829).
- The first dental school in the world was founded in Baltimore in 1840.
- In the 1940s, a Baltimore brewery issued the first six-pack of beer... because four beers just didn't seem like enough!

FAMOUS BALTIMORE RESIDENTS

Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and statesman

Billie Holiday, jazz singer

Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justice

H.L. Mencken, journalist and "Sage of Baltimore"

Garry Moore, host of "To Tell the Truth"

Ogden Nash, poet and humorist

Patty Payne, 2018 6MarDiv Reunion hostess

Michael Phelps, Olympic swimmer

Edgar Allan Poe, poet who died here at age 40 under mysterious circumstances

Emily Post, author and etiquette doyenne

Cal Ripken, Jr., baseball's Iron Man

Babe Ruth, "The Bambino"

Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor

Frank Zappa, singer and composer

FUN FACTS ABOUT BALTIMORE

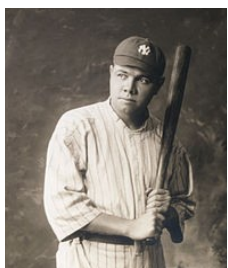
- Founded in 1729, Baltimore was named for Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore. He was a member of the Irish House of Lords and the founding proprietor of Maryland.
- Baltimore is the English translation of the Irish name *Baile an Ti Mhoir*, which means Town of the Big House.
- Baltimore is the second largest seaport in the Mid-Atlantic.
- The city's Inner Harbor was once the second leading port of entry for immigrants to America.
- The Preakness Stakes, the second race in the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing, has been held every May in Baltimore since 1873.

SLOGANS ANYONE?

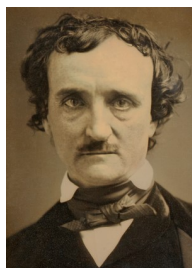
There have been many efforts over the years to come up with a catchy slogan for Baltimore. For example:

- Baltimore -- the Greatest City in America
- Baltimore is Best
- I Adore Baltimore
- O.K. America, Get Ready for Baltimore!

O.K. Baltimore, we admire your self confidence, but we're not sure slogans are your strong suit. However, we're ready to descend on your fair city in August and we promise to let you know what we think. We're pretty sure it will be a great time!



Babe Ruth



Edgar Allan Poe



Emily Post

Did you know Baltimore has museums dedicated to Babe Ruth and Edgar Allan Poe?

(Sorry to report there's no Emily Post museum.)

2018 Reunion -- Hotel Info

HILTON BALTIMORE BWI AIRPORT HOTEL

We're pretty excited about this hotel. It's beautiful! Plus they have a contract with Honor Flight and frequently host World War II and Korean War veterans. They love veterans and understand our group's needs.

Room Rates and Details

We were hoping to find lower rates, but this is the least expensive hotel in the area with meeting rooms big enough for our group. When you consider all we are getting, it's a good value, especially for the east coast.

- Discounted room rates -- \$119 for singles and doubles, \$129 for triples and \$139 for quads, plus 13% tax
- Room rates include a breakfast buffet with cooked-to-order omelets and waffles
- Rooms have one king or two queen beds, sitting area, mini-fridge, desk and 49-inch TV
- Room rates are available 2 days before and 2 days after reunion dates
- **Limited number of accessible rooms**, so reserve early if you need one

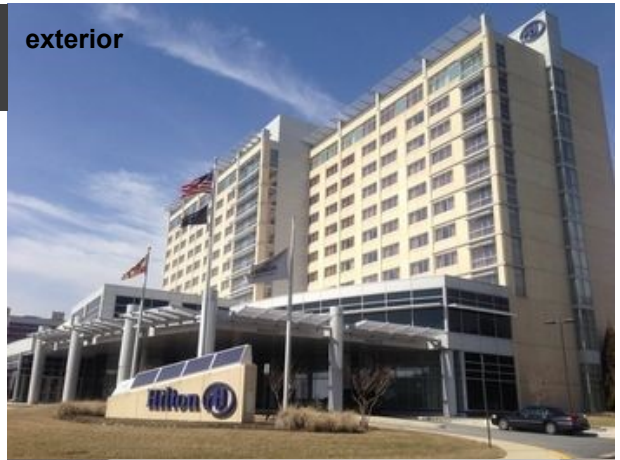
Hotel Amenities

- Free 24/7 hotel shuttle to and from the airport (call 410-694-0808 from the airport for pickup)
- Free parking
- Onsite restaurant, bar and 24-hour pantry market plus room service
- Indoor pool and fitness room
- ATM and coin laundry

Other Info

- Check in is 3:00 pm; check out is 12 noon
- 20 minutes from downtown Baltimore
- 40 minutes to Washington D.C.

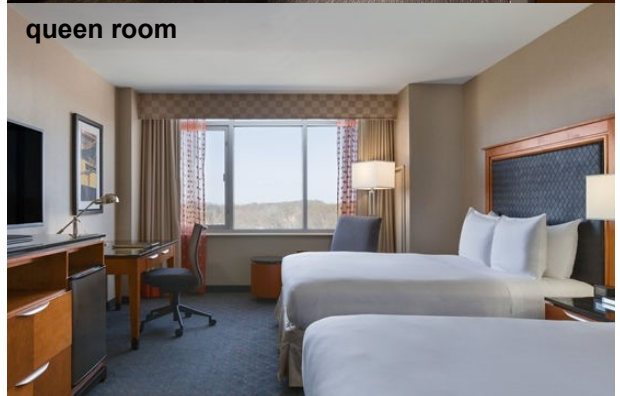
exterior



king room



queen room



private bath



bar



TWO WAYS TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:

- Go to our special Hilton reunion website -- the link is on the Sixth Marine Division website (sixthmarinedivision.com). Click on 6th Div Assn, then Reunions, then 2018 Reunion.
- Call 800-445-8667 and ask for the Sixth Marine Division 2018 Reunion at the Hilton BWI Airport to get our special rates.

2018 Reunion -- Field Trips

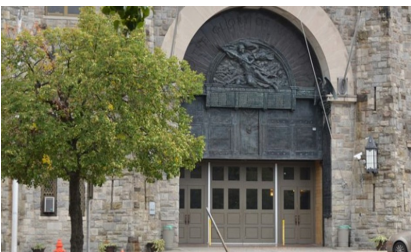


Spirit of Baltimore Lunch Cruise

WEDNESDAY

Guided Tour of MD Museum of Military History & Inner Harbor Lunch Cruise

Hop on the bus for our first stop at the Maryland Museum of Military History at the Fifth Regiment Armory. We'll learn how Marylanders' military service has helped to preserve our nation's freedoms. Displays include the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korean War, and more recent conflicts.



MD Museum of Military History

Next is your chance to see Baltimore's beautiful Inner Harbor and waterways! And what could be more relaxing than gazing at the sites while you cruise in air-conditioned comfort on the "Spirit of Baltimore?"

Enjoy the breeze, enjoy the views, and eat as much as you

want from the bountiful buffet table! Our reunion hostess, Patty Payne, reports the food is delicious...including the fabulous deserts.

Here are just a few of the sites we'll sail past:

- Fort McHenry where American forces defended Baltimore during the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner
- The historic Federal Hill neighborhood where the U.S. Constitution was ratified
- SS John W Brown, one of two remaining Liberty Ships used to take cargo and materials to Europe during World War II, plus other historic ships
- Falls Point, an historic waterfront neighborhood established in the 18th Century

After the cruise you can head back to the hotel on the bus. Or...spend a couple of hours exploring the Inner Harbor on your own and take the later bus back. There's lots to do including the National Aquarium, museums, historic ships, and the shops at Harborplace and The Gallery.

THURSDAY

Guided Tour of National Cryptologic Museum & Lunch on Beautiful Eastern Shore

Are you interested in cryptology? Or are you checking the dictionary to find out what cryptology is? Either way, we think you'll be fascinated by this museum. It's your chance to peak into the secret world of code making and code breaking. Associated with the National Security Agency and located at Fort George G. Meade, it contains

thousands of artifacts portraying the history of the cryptologic profession.

You'll learn how making and breaking codes impacted our nation's history. For example, did you know the U.S. entered World War I due to a decoded German message?

Some of the things you will see include:

Some of the things you will see include:

- Two German Enigma machines that you can try out
- A Navy Bombe that was used to break the Enigma



German Enigma at the National Cryptologic Museum

(continued on next page)

2018 Reunion -- Field Trips (cont.)

- Special exhibits on World War II, the Pacific, and the Navajo Code Talkers
- An 18th Century cypher device believed to be the oldest extant cypher device in the world
- Encryption devices used in wars fought by the U.S.



Hemmingway's Restaurant on the Eastern Shore

All that thinking is bound to make us hungry, so we'll jump back on the bus for a ride to Maryland's beautiful Eastern Shore and a buffet lunch at Hemmingway's Restaurant. Naturally, it will include the fabulous seafood Maryland is known for (crab cakes, anyone?), as well as plenty of selections for those who don't eat seafood. Choose a seat in our own waterfront room or on the outdoor patio and enjoy views of the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. The lunch will be free of charge thanks to the generosity of the McGuigan family in memory of their beloved father, Jim McGuigan (29th Mar-3-G).

FRIDAY

World War II & Iwo Jima Memorials, Dinner at Chow Hall, & Evening Parade at 8th and I

On Friday we'll visit places loved and appreciated by Marines and patriotic Americans. We'll ride in air-conditioned comfort to Washington D.C. where our first stop will be the World War II Memorial. You'll have plenty of time to read all the inscriptions or wander over to the nearby memorials if you are able. The Washington Monument, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial and Korean War Veteran's Memorial are all within walking distance.

Next we'll stop at the Iwo Jima Memorial just outside Arlington National Cemetery. From



above: World War II Memorial
below: Iwo Jima Memorial



this spot are beautiful views of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and U.S. Capitol. Yes, we'll allow time for photos!



Evening Parade at 8th and I

Our last stop will be the Marine Barracks at 8th and I, the oldest post of the Corps and home to the Commandant's home, the Marine Band, Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, the official Marine Corps Color Guard, and the Marine Corps Body Bearers.

Fortunately, they also have a chow hall where we'll enjoy dinner and a chance to rest before heading over to the Evening Parade. Everyone who's seen this show raves about it. And why not? It's an impressive display of the professionalism, discipline, and esprit de corps of the Marine Corps. Included is a concert by the Marine Band and a stirring performance by the silent drill team. If this doesn't have you shouting "Semper Fi," nothing will.

2018 Reunion -- Schedule of Events

		<u>Cost per person</u>
Registration -- Please register in the Hospitality Room after you arrive. Someone will normally be there to register you from 10:00 am until the evening each day.		\$25.00*
Tuesday, August 21		
3:00 pm-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room	
7:00 pm	Meet and Greet Reception with light refreshments, intro of 6th Division Vets, and presentations by Harry Sandlaufer and Laura Lacey	\$10.00
Wednesday, August 22		
6:00 am-10:00 am	Free breakfast at hotel for hotel guests	
8:00 am-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room	
9:00 am-2:30 pm <i>(optional later return at 4:30)</i>	Tour of Maryland Museum of Military History followed by Spirit of Baltimore All You Can Eat Lunch Cruise Optional -- spend an additional 2 hours at the Inner Harbor Includes bus transportation -- take the first bus back at 2:00 after the cruise or wait for the second bus leaving at 4:00	\$55.00
5:00 pm-6:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting	
7:00 pm	Special Evening Presentation in the Hospitality Room	
Thursday, August 23		
6:00 am-10:00 am	Free breakfast at hotel for hotel guests	
8:00 am-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room	
9:30 am-4:00 pm	Tour of National Cryptologic Museum followed by Lunch Buffet on the Eastern Shore Includes bus transportation	\$20.00
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	General Meeting and Auction -- ON <u>THURSDAY</u> THIS YEAR	
Friday, August 24		
6:00 am-10:00 am	Free breakfast at hotel for hotel guests	
8:00 am-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room	
1:00 pm-11:00 pm	Bus Trip to Washington DC, including the World War II Memorial, Iwo Jima Memorial, dinner in the Chow Hall at the Marine Barracks, and the Evening Parade at 8th and I	\$25.00
Saturday, August 25		
7:00 am-10:00 am	Free breakfast at hotel for hotel guests	
10:00 am	Memorial Service with color guard, bag piper and bugler	
11:00 am	Group and Family Photos	
6:00 pm-7:00 pm	Reception/Social Hour with cash bar	
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	Grand Banquet — dinner, guest speaker, officer Installation, and music	\$49.00*

***Hospitality Room Registration and Dinner Banquet are FREE for Sixth Division Marines and their wives and widows**

2018 Reunion -- Registration Form

Please complete both sides of this form and send with a check made payable to 6th Marine Division Assn. to Sharon Woodhouse (address on reverse) **by July 31!**

Name _____ Spouse/Guest Name _____
If Lineal Descendant, of Whom _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone (____) _____ Cell phone (____) _____ Email _____
Company _____ Battalion _____ Regiment _____

Sixth Division Marines -- Please enclose a photo of yourself from World War II if you can.

If it's easier, you can email or text the photo to Patty -- pjpayne1984@verizon.net or (410) 978-2979.

Check all that apply to you:

- Attending my 1st Reunion
 Use Cane or Walker
 Use Wheelchair
 Use Motorized Wheelchair
 Will take Wheelchair on field trips
 Special Dietary Needs: (please specify) _____

 Other Special Needs: (please specify) _____

 Will bring auction item
 Willing to help as needed

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

Will be arriving in Baltimore by _____ on _____
(Mode of Transportation) (Arrival Date)

Please note there is a free 24/7 shuttle from the Baltimore Airport to our hotel.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

Contact Name: _____
Relationship to You: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete the reverse side

2018 Reunion -- Registration Form, page 2

Registration 6th Division Marines, wives and widows -- FREE # _____ for planning
 All others -- \$25 per person # attending _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Tuesday, August 21

7:00 pm **Meet and Greet Reception** # attending _____ x \$10 = \$ _____
 Includes light refreshments & presentations

Wednesday, August 22

9:00 am-2:30 pm **Tour of Maryland Museum of Military** # attending _____ x \$55 = \$ _____
(optional later **History and Spirit of Baltimore Lunch Cruise**
return at 4:30) Includes all you can eat lunch & bus transportation

Thursday, August 23

9:30 am-4:00 pm **Tour of National Cryptologic Museum and** # attending _____ x \$20 = \$ _____
Lunch Buffet on the Eastern Shore
 Includes all you can eat lunch & bus transportation

7:00 pm-10:00 pm **General Meeting & Auction (on THURSDAY this year)** # _____ (for planning)

Friday, August 24

1:00 pm-11:00 pm **Bus Trip to WWII Memorial, Iwo Jima** # _____ x \$25 = \$ _____
Memorial, and 8th and I Marine Barracks
 Includes bus transportation, dinner in chow hall,
 and Evening Parade

Saturday, August 25

10:00 am **Memorial Service** # _____ (for planning)

6:00 pm-7:00 pm **Reception/Social Hour** with cash bar # _____ (for planning)

7:00 pm-10:00 pm **Grand Banquet** Crab Cakes # _____ x \$49* = \$ _____
 Please indicate # and dinner choice -----> Chicken # _____ x \$49* = \$ _____
***Note: dinner is free for Sixth Division** Beef # _____ x \$49* = \$ _____
Marines, wives and widows Vegetarian # _____ x \$49* = \$ _____

Total due for all events.....\$ _____

Make check payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn.
Please mail completed form with your check by July 31 to:
 Sharon Woodhouse
 14150 SW Hart Road
 Beaverton, OR 97008

6th Division Marines:
Please include a
picture of yourself
from World War II

Questions? Contact Patty Payne -- pjpayne1984@verizon.net or (410) 978-2979

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes

Embassy Suites, Scottsdale, Arizona

Friday, August 18, 2017

President Connie Housewart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She appointed Dale Marsh as Sergeant at Arms.

Roll Call:

Secretary Benedetti took the roll call:

Officers:

President – Connie Housewart	Present
Pres. Elect – Connie Housewart	Present
Secretary – Lisa Benedetti	Present
Treasurer – Sharon Woodhouse	Present
Chaplain – Harry McKnight	Present
Editor – Carroll McGowan	Present
Judge Advocate – Bob McGowan	Present
Membership Chair – Jim White	Absent & excused
Public Relations – Jim Monbeck	Present
Service Officer	Vacant
Past Pres. – Connie Housewart	Present

Unit Directors:

4 th Marines – George Scott	Absent & excused
15 th Marines – Sam Petriello	Absent & excused
22 nd Marines	Vacant
29 th Marines – Neal McCallum	Present
6 th Motor Transportation Battalion	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion	Vacant
6 th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion – Sal Mistretta	Absent & excused
6 th Pioneer Battalion	Vacant
6 th Headquarters Bn. – Joe W. Kite	Present
6 th Recon Co. – Joe Singleton	Absent & excused
6 th JASCO – George McAfee	Absent & excused
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

President Housewart declared a quorum was in attendance (at least 30 members).

President Housewart stated that the Meeting Notice was published in the 2017 spring and summer issues of the Striking Sixth. A copy was available.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2016:

Flo Dornan, seconded by Jim Rigby, moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2016 Annual Meeting as published in the spring issue of the Striking Sixth. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

President Connie Housewart:

President Housewart reported the Board of Directors at the board meeting voted to continue holding reunions, as long as there are veterans to attend. Also, all Sixth Division veterans and their wives or widows will have their reunion registration fee and banquet costs covered by the Association. It is hoped this will encourage more veterans to attend.

President Elect – Connie Housewart:

No report

Secretary Lisa Benedetti:

Secretary Benedetti thanked Carroll McGowan for stepping in as Acting Secretary at the 2016 reunion and doing an excellent job. The minutes will be signed and filed now they have been approved.

Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse:

The report covered the period of August 20, 2016 to August 15, 2017 (see p. 18).
 Beginning Balance of \$30,971.08,
 Revenues of \$22,887.55,
 Expenses of \$10,743.73,
 Ending Balance of \$43,114.90.

The expenses for this reunion will be taken from that balance.

Chaplain Harry McKnight:

No report

Editor Carroll McGowan:

No report

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan: Judge Advocate McGowan reported Bruce Royal who was an attorney with Royal and Petriello Associates passed away recently. He did a lot of work the last few years for the Association including redoing the bylaws a few years ago. He did it all for free. The Association will reach out to the family with some type of acknowl-

edgement. Bob also mentioned he spoke with Sam Petriello this week, who is doing fine and sends his regards to everybody.

Membership Chairman Jim White:

President Housewart reported for Jim White. She reviewed the membership report (see p. 18). Total membership is 1,850 members as of July 30, 2017. Connie reminded everyone their subscription dues for the newsletter are due at the end of the year in order to continue to receive the newsletter. These are in addition to the membership dues.

Public Relations Officer Jim Monbeck:

No report

Service Officer – Vacant:

No report

Past President Connie Housewart:

No report

UNIT DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

No reports

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Nominations Committee:

The Nominating Committee included Connie Housewart and Patty Payne. Connie presented the slate of officers for 2017-18 as follows:

- President – Connie Housewart
- President Elect – Connie Housewart
- Secretary – Lisa Benedetti
- Treasurer – Sharon Woodhouse
- Chaplain – Harry McKnight
- Editor – Carroll McGowan
- Judge Advocate – Bob McGowan
- Membership Chairman – Jim White
- Public Relations Officer – Jim Monbeck
- Service Officer – Vacant

2017 Reunion:

Bill Steed reported everything is going well. He asked everyone who had a speaking part for the Memorial Program to see him after this meeting.

(continued on next page)

Annual Meeting Minutes

(continued from prior page)

Membership:

President Housewart stated the Board of Directors approved the Membership Manager's contract for 2018 for Flo Dornan. Due to declining membership, Flo has agreed to reduce the amount to \$150 per month.

Bylaws Committee:

No report

Scholarship Committee:

Judge Advocate McGowan reported that no scholarships were awarded for the 2017-18 year as there are no funds left. At last year's reunion it was decided not to support the scholarships anymore as there are fewer applicants due to the fact that the scholarships were only for children and grandchildren of 6th Marine Division Association members. Additionally, the treasury funds continue to decline and that remaining money should be used for the veterans themselves.

Finance Committee:

President Housewart reported the committee met pursuant to Article X (9) of the Bylaws of the Association. The books were reviewed and the committee finds that the financial records and reports are in order.

ELECTIONS:

Officers:

President Housewart asked if there were any other nominations for officers from the floor. There were none.

Joe Kite, seconded by Rick Willauer, moved to close the nominations and cast a vote for the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. All in favor, motion carried.

The following were elected officers for 2017-18:

President Elect – Connie Housewart
Secretary – Lisa Benedetti
Treasurer – Sharon Woodhouse
Chaplain – Harry McKnight
Editor – Carroll McGowan
Judge Advocate – Bob McGowan
Membership Chairman – Jim White
Public Relations Officer – Jim Monbeck
Service Officer – Vacant

Unit Directors:

President Housewart reviewed the current Unit Directors and asked if there were volunteers for any of the vacant positions. Clyde Baulch and DC Rigby will be Co-Unit Directors for the 22nd Marines.

Unit Directors for 2017-18:

4th Marines – George Scott
15th Marines – Sam Petriello
22nd Marines – Clyde Baulch and DC Rigby*
29th Marines – Neal McCallum
6th Motor Trans. Bn. – Vacant
6th Medical Battalion – Vacant
6th Engineering – Vacant
6th Tank Battalion – Sal Mistretta
6th Pioneer Battalion – Vacant
6th Headquarters Bn. – Joe Kite
6th Recon Co. – Joe Singleton
6th JASCO – George McAfee
1st Amphibs – Vacant
*New directors for 2017-2018

2018 Nominating Committee:

President Housewart asked for nominations of two members at large to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2018.

Patty Payne and Joe Kite volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee for 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentations for Reunion 2018:

Patty Payne stated she was asked to host the reunion in Baltimore and is willing to do so. She went to one hotel last week, the Embassy Suites Hotel near the airport. It has breakfast and shuttle service to the airport. It is a good location for the area. She put together available activities that she will be researching. The hotel suite rates are \$119 to \$139, and noted being on the east coast, the hotel costs would be more expensive. Patty did not have dates, but it would be in August again. There are many things to do in the Baltimore area such as the Inner Harbor cruise and perhaps a day trip can be planned to Washington D.C. for the WWII Memorial and 8th and I for the

silent drill team. The drill team stops in August, so September is out for the reunion unless they could do a special performance for our group. Barb McKnight commented air fares are cheaper on week days than weekends, if Patty needed to schedule the reunion for different days of the week. Patty mentioned also for those driving that the traffic is much different on the Maryland side than the Virginia side. Pam Bloustine asked about holding it in July as some members need help from their families to attend. Patty explained the hotel is smaller and hosts many family reunions in July, so she thought the group would not want to meet during that time.

Connie Housewart made a proposal to hold the 2018 reunion in Quantico. The Holiday Inn in Quantico (where the 2013 and 2014 reunions were held) has again offered a rate of \$99.00 for the second week of September. All events, including the banquet, would be held at the hotel, with the exception of the Memorial Service, which would be held at the Museum Chapel. The Association would hire a bus to take everyone to the chapel for the museum, and also to make trips to the museum on one of the days. Someone thought there was some question of problems with the handicapped rooms and the showers. That seems to have been resolved.

Judge Advocate McGowan asked for a show of hands for each proposal and Baltimore (24) was chosen as the 2018 Reunion site over Quantico (5).

Bob thanked anyone who makes a proposal for these reunions as it means everything to the Association. President Housewart volunteered the Board to help with anything Patty needed.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the benediction.

Adjournment 7:40 p.m.

Submitted by,
Lisa Benedetti
Secretary

Attachments to the Annual Meeting Minutes

(continued from prior page)

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION Financial Statement 2016-17

Beginning Balance August 20, 2016		\$30,971.08
Revenue		
Memberships dues/n Newsletters/donations	\$ 5,262.52	
2016 Reunion	1,850.00	
2017 Reunion	10,485.00	
Ladies Auxiliary Money	5,290.03	
		22,887.55
Expenses		
Printing of newsletters	\$3,359.55	
Membership Manager	3,203.96	
2015 Reunion	760.98	
2016 Reunion	573.20	
2017 Reunion	2,693.35	
Misc. (postage/ink/ paper/new checks)	152.69	
		(10,743.73)
Ending balance August 15, 2017		\$43,114.90

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER 2017 REPORT

July 30, 2017

TO: JIM WHITE, Membership Chairman
FROM: Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

After removing deceased members, those lost by "bad addresses" and those who have requested to be dropped from their membership, there are 1,870 members on the roster. The following is based on those 1,870 names as of July 30, 2017 with annual dues paid from 2015:

Membership:

Regular Life Members	1,050
Regular Annual – Current	27
Associate Life Members	621
Associate Annual – Current*	6
Associate LD Life Members	129
Associate LD Annual – Current*	33
Organizations: 6; Honorary Members: 8	<u>14</u>
Current* - Dues paid for 2015 - 2020	1,870

There are a total of 503 members whose newsletters have been returned by the USPS without a new or forwarding address and no additional (58) members who requested to be dropped from the membership because of health issues or because all their friends are gone. There are 506 widows who are associate members and 34 are up-to-date on their newsletter subscriptions for 2017.

Newsletter Subscriptions:

The following are the number of currently paid subscribers to the newsletter as of July 30, 2017:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018-27</u>
Regular Members	29	59	65
Associate Members	7	16	22
Associate LD Members	12	25	12

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Dornan
Membership Manager

cc: Connie Houseweart
Lisa Benedetti



2017 Reunion

above left: installation of officers

left:
Neal McCallum,
D.C. Rigby,
William Cloud,
Harry Sandlaufer,
Clyde Baulch,
Harry McKnight,
Navajo Code Talker
Peter MacDonald,
Joe Kite

A Salute to a World War II Survivor Who Battled at Okinawa

by Joe Puglia, *Thoughts from Dr. Joe (doctorjoe.us)*, November 2017

The old Marine sipped on his black tea, and while he did so, he told of the 1945 battle to retake Okinawa, an effort referred to as “typhoon of steel.”

“Don’t write that,” he’d tell me, after sharing a vivid memory. He’d explain a little more, and then again would repeat, “don’t write that.”

I understood that Bob Martin believed the horror of battle was too ghastly for this column’s readers to be subjected to, but it was also too ghastly for his memory. He became emotional as he explained that he was the lone survivor of his machine gun squad, that his buddies died on top of him, and how he cradled them in his arms.

Today, when we lose a soldier, it cuts to the bone for many of us. Yet Martin pointed out that several thousand Americans were killed in the battle. I find it difficult to comprehend such catastrophic loss. It’s easy to cite numbers, but as Martin expressed, those numbers are lives and those lives affect other lives. When soldiers die in combat, the living go with them.

Bob Martin, one of La Cañada’s eminent residents and member of the Kiwanis Club, was 18 years old when he joined the Marines. Eighteen is the advent of the rite of passage, a time for frivolity, yet Martin was not destined to experience the burgeoning of youth. Maybe it was the luck of the draw, or maybe it was his destiny, or maybe it was neither, but Martin would spend his rite of passage clinging to life.

I did not find it unusual that he remembered each moment of the battle. Subsequently, I understood author Eugene Sledge’s rationale as his chronicle of death, mayhem, and war’s catastrophic effects attests as to why those who experience it can never forget.

Of course, Martin must have known that by joining up, he’d have one destiny: combat. He went from San Diego to Guadalcanal for staging, and then on April 1, 1945, he landed on Okinawa with the Sixth Marine Division.



The Marines expected to be slaughtered at the beachhead, but Japan’s 32nd army, some 130,000 men strong, waited inland. They had the Americans just where they wanted them.

It is rare that victory is what is most memorable to the soldier; it’s those elements that are incidental to battle. Martin recalls crawling from his foxhole toward enemy lines, attempting to rescue Okinawan children who were forced into front-line service. The children were called the Blood and Iron Imperial Brigade, and in the coming suicide attacks, they were destined for slaughter.

Martin attempted to sneak as many children as he could into American lines.

“How many did you save?” I asked.

“Eight,” he answered.

Because of his selflessness and his affiliation with the people, he was called *uchinanchu*, a term of endearment meaning ethnic Okinawan.

Martin recalled comforting the Marines who became catatonic as a result of the battle and the concussion of the artillery. “They were psychoneurotic, shell-shocked,” he said. “I remember helping those guys in the draw under constant mortar and machine gun fire.”

Martin was at the Sugar Loaf, a tall mound barely 50 feet high and 300 yards long. It was the final strong point of Japanese defenses. His unit was ordered to take the Sugar Loaf. After the fight, the body count was 1,656 Marines killed and 7,429 wounded. “Everyone was wounded but me,” he said.

I know my questions were painful, but I only asked because it was from one Marine to another. There was a pause and I knew where his mind was.

“I never flaked,” he said.

Veterans Day is this week. I want to honor the Old Marine. Here’s to you, Bob Martin, and those like you. Damn few left.

We finished lunch, I left, and he smiled as I said, “Carry on, Marine.”



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.

Baulch, Clyde F.	22 nd Mar-2-H	01/27/2018
Brining, Marguerite	widow of Don Brining	01/15/2018
Brumbaugh, Ellis E.	29 th Mar-H&S	12/14/2017
Galuska, Edward W.	22 nd Mar-2-G	09/27/2014
Higgins, Leroy W.	4 th Mar-3-K	01/11/2013
Jacot, Edward H.	15 th Mar-3-I	02/21/2018
Kessler, Glenn J.	6 th Mar Div-HQ-G1	03/17/2017
Lawhan, Raymond C.	22 nd Marines	09/27/2017
Lewis, F. F. Jr. (Finney)	6 th Eng Bn-H&S	10/17/2017
McCormack, James H.	29 th Mar-2-G	07/22/2015
Mears, David A.	29 th Mar-2-D	11/06/2017
Nelligan, David J.	6 th Marine Division	12/21/2017
O'Neil, Donald E.	6 th Marine Division	Unknown
Ruediger, Leonard C.	4 th Mar-3-I	12/26/2017
Senterfitt, John	29 th Mar-2-F	Unknown
Thomas, Gilbert R.	29 th Mar-2-HQ	12/22/2017

Reporting Deaths

Deaths should be reported ASAP to:

Flo Dornan, Membership Manager
 (817) 275-1552
 sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

AND

Harry McKnight, Chaplain
 (614) 866-3456
 harrym1677@icloud.com

David Mears: Fit to Guard the Gates of Heaven After 96 Active Years



Dave Mears with daughter Louise Lutts at the Columbus reunion, 2015

Everyone who saw Dave Mears at a reunion knew he was in phenomenal shape, even after he reached age 90. He was blessed with good genes, but he also was very active and took great care of himself.

Dave's life of physical fitness began early with hard labor on a farm in Essex, MA. While he attended Boston University, he was a member of the football team and crew team. Needless to say, life didn't get more sedentary when Dave enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. He was deployed to Guadalcanal where he played in the famous Mosquito Bowl football game on Christmas Eve 1944. Just a few months later, he landed on Okinawa. On May 15, 1945 he was wounded on Sugar Loaf Hill. Dave received an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps as a Captain in 1958.

Dave and his late wife Mary, who he married in 1943, raised their five children in Massachusetts. The family eventually grew to include ten grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Dave was a CPA and worked at several companies as accounting manager, controller and auditor before retiring at age 72. He never stopped being active. He loved the outdoors, downhill skiing, windsurfing, sailing, water skiing, kayaking, clamming and gardening. He and Mary were avid square dancers, and Dave was a life member of the 70+ Ski Club. He also enjoyed reading, learning new things, and spending time with the youngest members of his family. Always friendly, he was a joy to be around.

Dave lived life to the fullest right up until he passed away on November 6, 2017. He never stopped taking care of his mind and body. What an example he set for us all!

The Chaplain

by Harry Stanifer (6th Engineer Bn-C), 2002

Father John is what they called him, for he was the Chaplain of the troops.

He was a young Lieutenant and new to all these Army groups.

Not too long from Seminary, like a big brother to those young men.

Just a regular guy, he was, and didn't judge them for their sin.

He seemed to know them all by name when he would come around.

And would always try to cheer them up, seldom wearing a frown.

He was always asking how they were and if their hearts were right,

Because he knew where they were going, they were headed for a fight.

Every time he saw a group of guys, he'd tell them straight and true,

"I'm going with you to Hell and back, I'll always be with you."

Every man had respect for him, because he didn't always preach.

But they were sure he would be there when they hit the beach.

Just before the landing came, over the loud-speaker he gave a prayer.

Once more he told them, "I will go where you go, even into the Devil's lair.

Just remember, I will go where you go," then they headed for the beach.

He now had to walk the walk, and in school that was something they didn't teach.

Father John was soon busy, when the Medic left a wounded man

He would run to comfort him, laying in the mud and sand.

Then one time a sniper got him as he knelt there - then he whispered low,

"Don't fear the journey over there, son, for with you I will go."

Chaplain's Report



Looking forward to Baltimore and seeing and enjoying friends and family.

Our world is going to pot, and there is so much hate. Back in the 60s we worried about bomb shelters. Now with North Korea and Putin, we're concerned about it again.

We all know who is in charge of this world, and He will not let us down.

We all make mistakes and can be forgiven. So again, keep the commandments, say your prayers, support your church, and don't say or do dumb things.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

From the Editor



I really enjoy traveling, especially to new places. This year is my fourth chance to travel to a new city for a Sixth Marine Division Reunion. Naturally I've been busy reading all about Baltimore, and I'm convinced it will be a fun place to

visit. Turns out it's not just the home of the hated Baltimore Ravens. (As you may have guessed, I'm a Pittsburgh Steelers fan through and through!)

Like many industrial cities in the East and Midwest (including Pittsburgh), Baltimore fell into a period of decline as manufacturing moved overseas. But it has been busy remaking its economy and redeveloping its architectural and natural assets. For example, in the 70s and 80s Baltimore began revitalizing the decaying Inner Harbor. It is now a beautiful tourist destination and a model of post-industrial waterfront development. I can't wait to see it! And I can't wait to see all of you! Patty Payne has a lot of fun activities planned; I hope you can make it.

~ Carroll McGowan



SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 2017-2018

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Striking Sixth Newsletter

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

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Membership applications, dues, donations, address changes, death notices, and record changes should be mailed with an application (see page 25) to:

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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

Message from the Membership Manager



My Jack had been receiving the Scuttlebutt newsletter from the China Marines for years, and I had not paid any atten-

tion to it. Since I am now receiving it, I find it very interesting to read. The last copy dated December 20, 2017 showed a copy of the cover of the Christmas dinner menu for the Sixth Marine Division in Tsingtao, 1945, and an article entitled "China Marines Returning" followed by "The Sixth Division" credited to the *Leatherneck, Oct. 1946* which made me very proud of our Sixth Marine Division, and I wanted to share with you all as follows:

"The Sixth Marine Division remained at Tsingtao, China as an occupation and repatriation force until deactivated on 1 April 1946. On that same day the Third Marine Brigade was formed from its elements.

"Though its 18-month career, as such, was short, the Sixth Marine Division has left a rich heritage. Its fighting spirit of ceaseless and unrelenting attack has further enhanced the Marine

"...the Sixth was the most professional outfit I ever saw. All they wanted to do was to attack."

Corps' great traditions. This spirit was perhaps best defined by an Army officer who served alongside Marines in several island operations and who praised the Sixth in these words:

"We got along fine with every Marine division, and enjoyed working with them, but the Sixth was the most professional outfit I ever saw. All they wanted to do was to attack."

Esprit de Corps.

Before I close I feel I must remind everyone if your subscription label does not indicate 2018 or after, you will not be on the mailing list to receive this newsletter. Also, if you learn of the passing of one of your buddies or a member of the Association, please let Chaplain Harry McKnight and me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Flo Dornan
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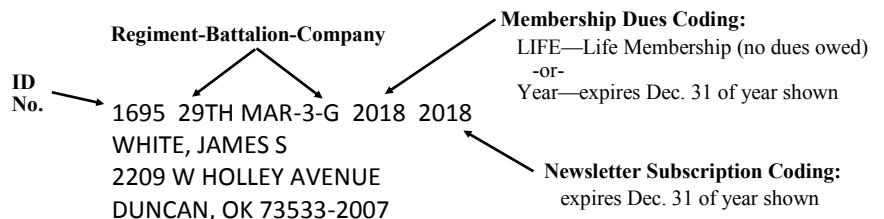
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Six Seconds to Live

From a November 13, 2010 speech by then-Lt.Gen. John Kelly to the Semper Fi Society of St. Louis, describing a 2008 suicide bombing in Iraq that killed two Marines, Cpl. Jonathan Yale, 22, and Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter, 20. Gen. Kelly's son, Second Lt. Robert Kelly, 29, was killed in action in Afghanistan November 9, 2010, just four days before this speech.



Lt.Gen. John Kelly in 2010

What we didn't know at the time, and only learned a couple of days later after I wrote a summary and submitted both Yale and Haerter for posthumous Navy Crosses, was that one of our security cameras, damaged initially in the blast, recorded some of the suicide attack. It happened exactly as the Iraqis

had described it. It took exactly six seconds from when the truck entered the alley until it detonated.

You can watch the last six seconds of their young lives. Putting myself in their heads I supposed it took about a second for the two Marines to separately come to the same conclusion about what was going on once the truck came into their view at the far end of the alley. Exactly no time to talk it over, or call the sergeant to ask what they should do. Only enough time to take half an instant and think about what the sergeant told them to do only a few minutes before: "let no unauthorized personnel or vehicles pass." The two Marines had about five seconds left to live.

It took maybe another two seconds for them to present their weapons, take aim, and open up. By this time the truck was half-way through the barriers and gaining speed the whole time.

Here, the recording shows a number of Iraqi police, some of whom had fired their AKs, now scattering like



Cpl. Jonathan Yale

the normal and rational men they were -- some running right past the Marines. They had three seconds left to live.

For about two seconds more, the recording shows the Marines' weapons firing nonstop, the truck's windshield exploding into shards of glass as their rounds take it apart and tore in to the body of the son-of-a-bitch who is trying to get past them to kill their brothers -- American and Iraqi -- bedded down in the barracks totally unaware of the fact that their lives at that moment de-

pendent entirely on two Marines standing their ground. If they had been aware, they would have known they were safe, because two Marines stood between them and a crazed suicide bomber. The recording shows the truck careen-



Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter

ing to a stop immediately in front of the two Marines. In all of the instantaneous violence Yale and Haerter never hesitated. By all reports and by the recording, they never stepped back. They never even started to step aside. They never even shifted their weight. With their feet spread shoulder width apart, they leaned into the danger, firing as fast as they could work their weapons. They had only one second left to live.

The truck explodes. The camera goes blank. Two young men go to their God. Six seconds. Not enough time to think about their families, their country, their flag, or about their lives or their deaths, but more than enough time for two very brave young men to do their duty -- into eternity. That is the kind of people who are on watch all over the world tonight -- for you.



1st Lt. Robert Kelly



Cpl. Jonathan Yale



Lance Cpl. Jordan Haerter

Spring 2018

Hold the Line

taken from a column by Peggy Noonan in the Wall Street Journal, September 2, 2017

A week or so ago, probably in Jordan, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had an impromptu meeting with what looked like a few dozen U.S. troops. Someone taped it. This is what Mr. Mattis said: “Hold the line.”

“For those of you I haven’t met, my name’s Mattis,” he began. “Thanks for being out here, OK? I know at times you wonder if any of us know...but believe me, I know you’re far from home every one of you, I know you could all be going to college you young people, or you could be back on the block. [We’re] just grateful...”



“The only way this great big experiment you and I call America is gonna survive is if we’ve got tough hombres like you... We don’t frickin’ scare, that’s the bottom line.

“You’re a great example for our country right now. It’s got some problems -- you know it and I know it. It’s got problems that we don’t have in the military. And you just hold the line, my fine young soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines. You just hold the line until our country gets back to understanding and respecting each other and showing it, of being friendly to one another. That’s what Americans owe to one another -- we’re so doggone lucky to be Americans.”

He ended: “I flunked retirement, OK? Only reason I came back was to serve alongside young people like you, who are so selfless and frankly so rambunctious.”

This was the voice of true moral authority, authority earned through personal sacrifice. Speeches like that come only from love.

Sixth Marine Division Association

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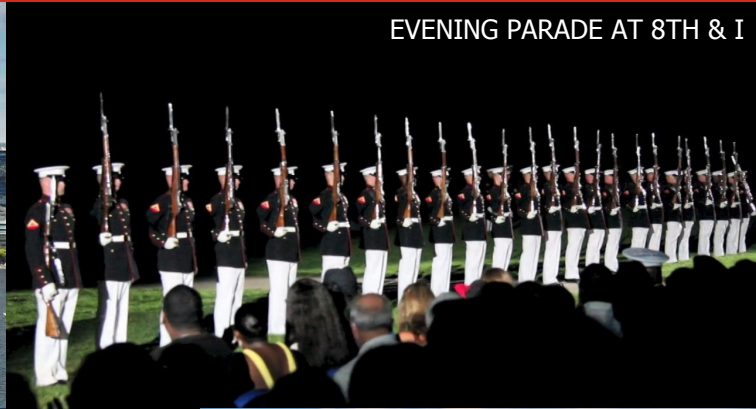
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