

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



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www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Fall 2019

### Reunion 2019

I guess we shouldn't have been surprised. After all, Philadelphia hosted our founding fathers when they drew up the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. And we know how well that turned out. More than 200 years later, things turned out pretty darn well for the Sixth Marine Division crew too. In fact, it was absolutely fabulous! We found first class historic sites, an excellent hotel, delicious food, friendly people, and the incredible — indescribable! — Mummies! We had a ball!



2019 Reunion hosts Lisa Smith & Buzz Bissinger

For more information and loads of photos, see pages 2-12.

We dedicate this issue of the Striking Sixth to former Editor Joe Singleton 7/8/1925 — 10/5/2019



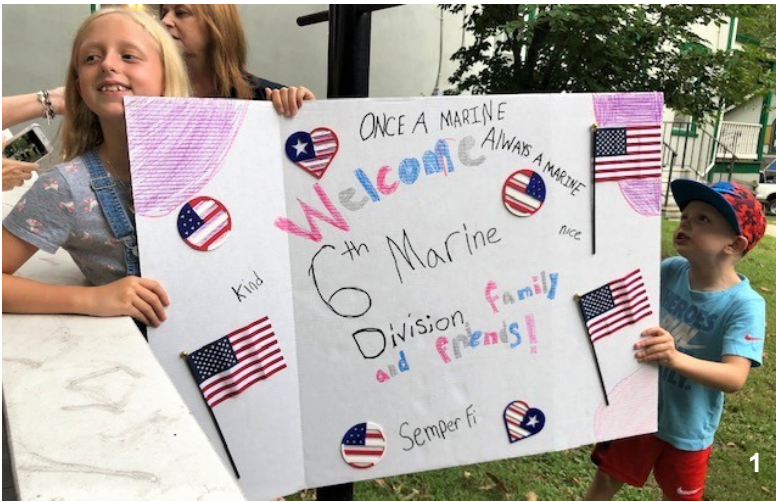
Joe Singleton at the 2012 Portland Reunion See page 18 for more about Joe



Honored Sixth Marine Division Veterans attending the 2019 Reunion: Neal McCallum, Kenneth Wells, Bennett Bard, Herbert Kinney, Leonard Turner, Harry McKnight, Lester Penny, Marvin Skeath

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1) Nola & Harvey Andrews (great grandchildren of the late Jim McGuigan) hold up a sign they made to welcome us to the Upper Darby Marine Corps League.



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- 2) Mummers entertain (boy do they ever!) at the Grand Banquet.
- 3) Color guard enters Christ Church for the Memorial Service.
- 4) We get our own special presentation at the Liberty Bell.
- 5) We gather at Christ Church for the Memorial Service.
- 6) Lester Penny, Neal McCallum, Herbert Kinney, Bennett Bard, Leonard Turner & Harry McKnight pose in front of the USS New Jersey.



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# Reunion 2019

Our home for the week was the Loews Philadelphia Hotel. Ideally located in center city, it was comfortable and stylish with top notch service. Thank you Comcast for subsidizing the cost!

Our first history lesson came at the opening night Meet & Greet where Ben Franklin entertained us with stories about Philadelphia's colonial history while we munched on Philly snacks.

Then our very own Bob McCalmont gave a talk on Philadelphia's military history. It was just the beginning of a week full of camaraderie, history, laughs and memories.

- 1) Mary Walker, Buzz Bissinger, Lynne Warren
- 2) Buzz Bissinger welcomes everyone to Philadelphia
- 3) Bennett Bard, Ben Franklin
- 3) Patty Payne, Neal McCallum
- 5) our opening night speaker, Ben Franklin
- 6) Mary Walker, Pfuong Riles
- 7) Deborah Magnuson & Paul Kirst wearing shirts Paul made to honor Deborah's late father, Jack Magnuson (22nd Mar-1-A).



**“It was lot of work and a lot of panic, but it was incredibly rewarding. The help from the Board was indispensable, and they talked me off the ledge many times.”  
— Buzz Bissinger**



**Tour and Lunch on the USS New Jersey**

- 1) Herbert Kinney, Harry McKnight, Bennett Bard, Leonard Turner, Neal McCallum & Lester Penny pose with a veteran from Comcast who Leonard took a shine to.
- 2) A reporter discovers how articulate and interesting Neal McCallum is.
- 3) Jim Monbeck & Bob McGowan converse after lunch.
- 4) Sixth Marine Division Veterans throw the memorial wreath into the water.



**Reunion 2019**

**Dinner at the Upper Darby Marine Corps League**

- 5) Welcome from the color guard
- 6) Waiting for dinner to be served
- 7) League Members pose with Sixth Division Veterans Leonard Turner, Neal McCallum, Bennett Bard, Harry McKnight, Lester Penny, Kenneth Wells & Herbert Kinney

Our field trips were filled with fun, food, friends, and, of course, history!





**Philadelphia Sightseeing and Cheesesteaks at Gino's**

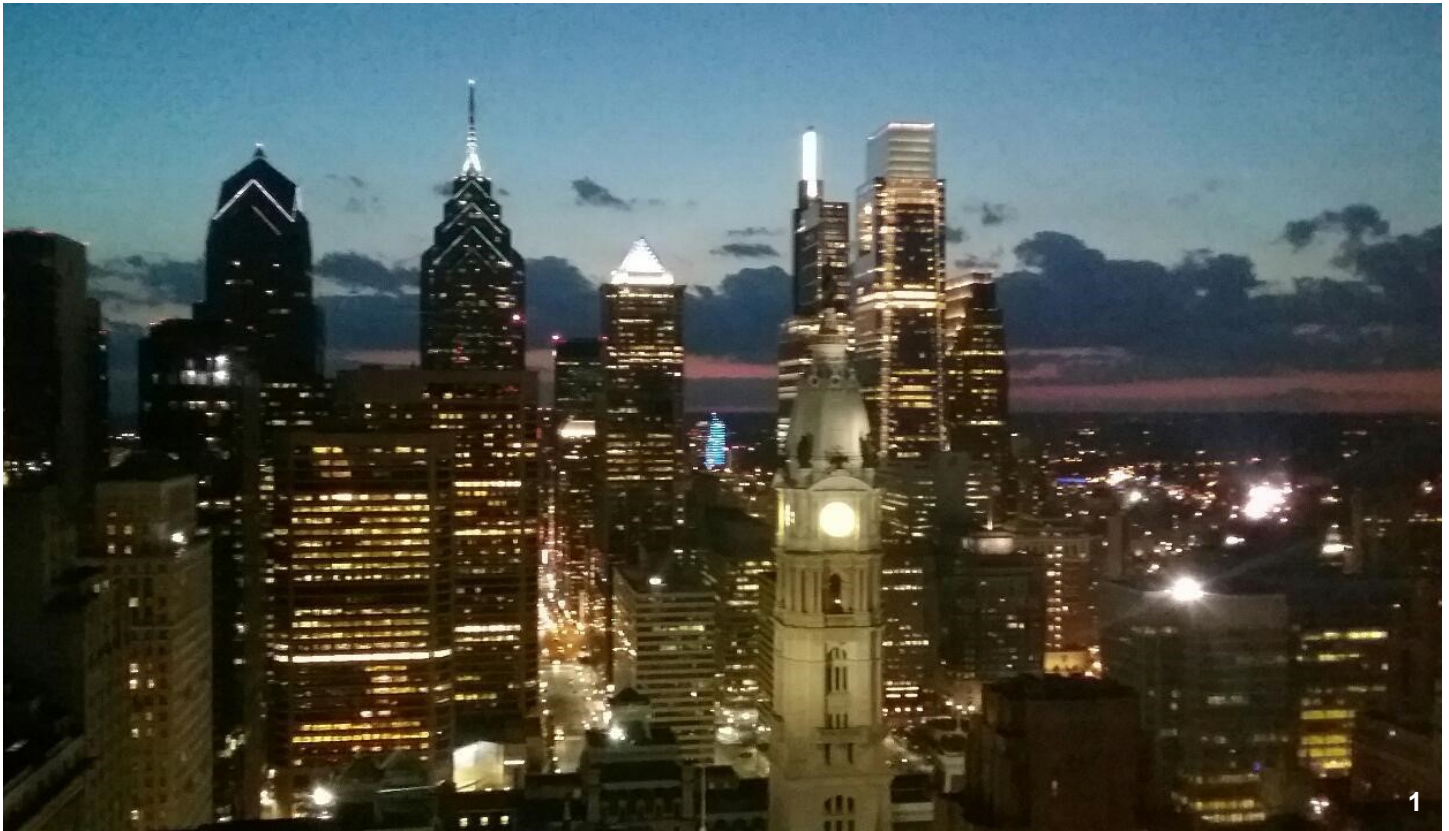
- 1) Richard Bertram, Paul Kirst, Deborah Magnuson, Cheryl Heint & Laura Bertram enjoy 18th Century food at the historic Old City Tavern.
- 2) Kay Newill, Connie Houseweart & Dave Hilner take a break outside Independence Hall
- 3) Doreen Walker & Rick Willauer get ready to eat cheesesteaks at Gino's, which is reputed to have the best cheesesteaks in Philly. Based on the lines, it must be true!
- 4) Harry McKnight, Herbert Kinney, Neal McCallum & Leonard Turner at Gino's
- 5) Connie Houseweart, Sharon Woodhouse, Buzz Bissinger & Dave Hilner at Gino's
- 6) Posing at the site of the Tun Tavern (where the US Marine Corps was founded) are Herbert Kinney, Lester Penny, Kenneth Wells, Bennett Bard, Leonard Turner, Neal McCallum & Harry McKnight.
- 7) Signers' Hall at the National Constitution Center was a popular spot for photos. Shown here are Connie Houseweart, Dave Hilner, Gregg Woodhouse, Lisa Benedetti, Anita Benedetti, Louise Lutts & Melinda Benedetti.
- 8) Bob McGowan & Lester Penny head to the Liberty Bell.



- 1) Lester Penny, Parker Brauer
- 2) Louise Lutts, Karen Turner, Mary Brauer
- 3) Jim & Melanie Rigby
- 4) Paul Kirst, Deborah Magnuson
- 5) Frank & Christine McBride
- 6) Brenda Fletcher, Herbert Kinney
- 7) Bennett & Keith Bard
- 8) Dee & Rick Willauer
- 9) Sharon Woodhouse, Connie Houseweart

The 33rd floor of the Lowes Hotel was the setting for our annual meeting and auction. What a view! The city of Philadelphia really sparkles when the sun goes down! The view, the hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, and great conversation all contributed to a memorable evening. And speaking of sparkling...how about our auctioneer, Sharon Woodhouse?! Thanks to her efforts — and all the generous donors and bidders — we raised \$2,300 to help cover the costs of the reunion! Many thanks to everyone who participated!!!

# Reunion 2019



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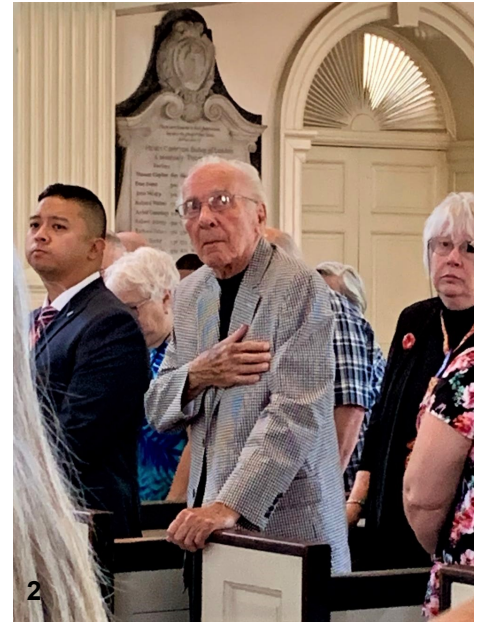


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- 1) Fabulous view from the 33rd floor of the Loews Hotel where we had our annual meeting and auction
- 2) A few members of the wonderful and generous McGuigan family: Theresa & Jim McGuigan, Tom Montalbano, Kate McGuigan, Patty Payne
- 3) Kris Oberdorf, Marvin Skeath, Kelley Rouse
- 4) Kenneth Wells (sitting between Dolores Bertram and Natalie Wells) admires the hat he received at the annual meeting. All of the Sixth Division Veterans received a hat.

*Many thanks to those who shared their reunion photos with us: Anita, Melinda & Lisa Benedetti; Christine McBride; Jim & Melanie Rigby; Rick Willauer; and Sharon Woodhouse.*

- 1) Neal McCallum, Harry McKnight, Bob McGowan
- 2) Leonard Turner
- 3) Neal McCallum, Kenneth Wells, Marvin Skeath, Herbert Kinney, Leonard Turner, Harry McKnight, & Lester Penny stand with Captain Carlo Aragoncillo, Director of Veterans Affairs, US Army, who read a proclamation from the City of Philadelphia (see page 9).



## Reunion 2019

- 4) the always beautifully attired Jane McCalmont escorted by husband Bob (You look great too, Bob!)
- 5) front:  
Paul Kirst, 3 daughters of Thomas Bagnell, Mary Ellen & Robert Morway
- back:  
Joe Kite, Mary Beth Tierney, Deborah Magnuson



Christ Church provided the perfect setting for another moving Memorial Service. What an honor to remember those who passed in the same church in which many of our founding fathers worshipped. A bagpiper welcomed us as we arrived, the church organist played the National Anthem, and a bugler played Taps from the balcony. It couldn't have been more beautiful.



# PROCLAMATION

Our nation's military has an illustrious history in the City of Philadelphia, with the founding of the US Army, Navy, and Marine Corps here. Multiple generations of brave and heroic men and women from our city and region have proudly served in the US military. These individuals wanted to do their part to uphold the principles of freedom and democracy that are the legacy of our City. We are all indebted to those who risked their lives for their nation, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice will always be honored and remembered.

The Sixth Marine Division, which fought in the Battle of Okinawa — a pivotal military campaign that was essential to our nation's victory in World War II — is one such group of distinguished American military heroes. During the bloodiest battle that occurred in the Pacific, an estimated 240,000 American and Japanese soldiers and civilians lost their lives over 82 days. Within the Sixth Division, over 2,000 Marines were killed but the Marines were successful in taking two-thirds of the island. It would be the last major battle of World War II.

The Division was formed in September 1944 following the Battle of Guam as the men of the 4th and 22nd Marine Regiments and supporting troops formed the new outfit. Their incredible heroism and sacrifice are an inspiration to generations of Americans and future military personnel. The City of Philadelphia humbly recognizes these heroic members of what has been defined as the "Greatest Generation" who fought for the soul of our country and the world.

Between Tuesday, August 27 and Sunday, September 1, 2019, the City of Philadelphia is deeply honored to host the 49th annual reunion of this distinguished group of military veterans. For nearly half a century, the men of the Sixth Division and their families have come together for an annual reunion. This year, eight veterans between the ages of 93 and 98 are expected to attend a week of festivities in our City, which will include a ceremony on the Battleship New Jersey and visits to the National Constitution Center, Museum of the American Revolution, and Independence Hall. Author Buzz Bissinger, son of Sixth Division veteran Gerry Bissinger, and his wife Lisa Smith are serving as reunion hosts, and Mr. Bissinger is currently writing a book about the men of this Division, their service to their country, and the loss of our greatest generation.

## **THEREFORE...**

I, James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim the week of Tuesday, August 27 to Sunday, September 1, 2019 to be the

## **49TH REUNION OF THE SIXTH DIVISION OF THE US MARINE CORPS WEEK**

in Philadelphia, and urge all Philadelphians to honor these amazing heroes as well as those Marines in the Sixth Division who lost their lives while valiantly fighting to protect our nation's security. We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to these men and all other members of our military who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

James F. Kenney  
Mayor



- 1) Lester Penny with his grandson
- 2) Guest Speaker Samuel Nicholas, First Commandant of the Marine Corps, Bob McGowan
- 3) Dolores Bertram, Barbara McKnight
- 4) Doreen Walker, Flo Dornan
- 5) Kay Newill, Lisa Smith
- 6) Randy & Ethan Cassidy, Thi Thi Mai Doan
- 7) Harry McKnight, Bob McGowan
- 8) Joe Kite recreates the traditional picture of his late father with Sharon Woodhouse
- 9) Pfuong Riles, Neal McCallum, Mary Beth Tierney
- 10) Thomas Woodward, Joe Kite, Randy Cassity
- 11) Bob & Jane McCalmont

We were immersed in our nation's history right up until the very end as the Grand Banquet was held at the Museum of the American Revolution. After touring the exhibits on our own, we had a private showing of the very moving film about Washington's headquarters tent, which was brilliantly displayed. And if that was not enough, guest speaker, Samuel Nicholas, First Commandant of the Marine Corps, gave an amusing and informative account of the founding of the Corps while we dined.



We have some great dancers in our group, but no one can lead a conga line like Lester Penny! And no one can get a crowd going like the Mummies! A little bit outlandish, perhaps, but they can really play. Not to mention dress! If they don't make you smile, nothing will.

The food was delicious — and artistically presented. And it was delivered to the table in a choreographed twirling routine. Magical! Just like the entire evening. A perfect ending to a wonderful week together.

1) Herbert Kinney, Brenda Fletcher, Natalie & Kenneth Wells

2) Karen & Leonard Turner, Louise Lutts, Gillian Martin

3) Kelley Rouse, Kris Oberdorf, Marvin Skeath, Melanie & Jim Rigby

4-6) Mummies!

7) Lester Penny, our fearless leader, starts the conga line!

8) Panna cotta for dessert — it tasted just as good as it looked!

# Reunion 2019

## 2019 Reunion Donors and Supporters — Thank You!!!

Anita, Melinda & Lisa Benedetti  
Ann Bissinger  
Buzz Bissinger & Lisa Smith  
Dolores Bertram  
David Hilner  
Connie Houseweart  
Joe Kite  
Gillian Martin  
Frank & Christine McBride  
Jane & Bob McCalmont  
Bob & Carroll McGowan  
Jim & Theresa McGuigan  
Kathryn McGuigan & Thomas Montalbano  
Jim Monbeck  
Kathleen Newill  
Patty & Jim Payne  
Stuart & Gina Shapiro  
Kenneth & Natalie Wells  
Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse

**We apologize if we missed anyone!**

## 2019 Reunion Attendees — Thanks for Coming!

Daughters of Thomas Bagnell  
Bennett & Keith Bard  
Anita, Melinda & Lisa Benedetti  
Dolores, Richard & Laura Bertram & Cheryl Heintz  
Mary & Parker Brauer  
Buzz Bissinger & Lisa Smith  
Randy & Ethan Cassity & Thi Thi Mai Doan  
Flo Dornan & Doreen Walker  
Connie Houseweart & David Hilner  
Herbert Kinney & Brenda Fletcher  
Joe Kite  
Louise Lutts  
Deborah Magnuson & Paul Kirst  
Gillian Martin  
Frank & Christine McBride  
Neal McCallum & Phuong Riles  
Jane & Bob McCalmont  
Bob & Carroll McGowan  
Theresa & Jim McGuigan

**Comcast Corporation** — sponsor of the Reunion and host of our Grand Dinner Banquet:  
David L. Cohen, Dalila Wilson-Scott, Danielle Arnold, Sarah Ferst, Carol Eggert, Meredith Setzman, and Ed Carr

**Christ Church** — host of the Memorial Service:  
The Rev. Timothy B. Safford, The Rev. Susan Richardson, Parker Kitterman, Cecilia Wagner, Neil Ronk, John Hopkins, and Patrick McCue

**The Philadelphia Independence Visitor Center:**  
James Cuorato, Jennifer Nagle, Ashton Seiwell

**The National Park Service:**  
Cynthia Macleod and Andrew McDougal

**HealthFleet Ambulance:**  
R. Sean Buckmann

**Ceisler Media and Issue Advocacy:**  
Larry Ceisler, Kate Wilhelm and Will Jara

**Loews Philadelphia Hotel:**  
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**The City of Philadelphia**  
**Upper Darby Marine Corps League**

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Harry & Barbara McKnight  
Jim Monbeck  
Mary Ellen & Robert Morway  
Kathleen Newill  
Patty Payne  
David Pelletier  
Lester Penny & grandson  
Jim & Melanie Rigby  
Marvin Skeath, Kelley Rouse & Kris Oberdorf  
Mary Beth Tierney  
Leonard & Karen Turner  
Mary Walker & Lynne Warren  
Robert Wallace & Brian Kindle  
Kenneth & Natalie Wells  
Rick & Dee Willauer  
Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse  
Thomas Woodward



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## Striking Sixth Newsletter

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Subscription checks — as well as dues, donations, address changes, death notices, and record changes — should be mailed to:

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**Please make checks payable to:**  
Sixth Marine Division Assn.

For more information, please contact Patty at:  
(410) 978-2979 or ppayne1984@verizon.net

**Newsletter Dues for 2020  
are due December 31, 2019**

**Send your check for \$10  
to Patty Payne today!  
(see address to the right)**

**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 President



Wow....What an amazing reunion in Philadelphia hosted by Lisa and our own Harry (Buzz) Bissinger. Kudos to you and your wife for a fun-filled, action-packed reunion week.

I personally had no idea that Philadelphia was really fun to learn about, and I am a Pennsylvania girl! I just can't tell you enough how amazing the week was. I think the event I liked the best was the banquet with the Mummies showing up and Les Penny leading our gang in a dance train.

Thank you, Buzz and Lisa, for all of your hard work and efforts. It will be one I will not forget for a long time to come. Another great reunion to register in the books!

On to next year in Fredericksburg, VA where we will celebrate 50 years of reunions. Very special indeed. Continue to look for your newsletters and look on the website, [www.sixthmarinedivision.com](http://www.sixthmarinedivision.com), for updates on the reunion plans.

As always I love making new friendships and renewing old ones. Hope to see you all in Fredericksburg. Till then...

God Bless and Take Care,  
Connie  
President, Sixth Marine Division Association

## Chaplain's Report



Be patient. All prayers will be answered in the Lord's time. He knows what you need and will provide the information or help.

Read in the New Testament, James 1st Chapter 1-5.

Your friendly Chaplain,  
Harry McKnight



**We wish all the members of the Sixth Marine Division Association a warm and wonderful holiday season. May you be surrounded by family and friends, and may you be filled with love and joy.**



## From the Editor



I'm feeling a lot of emotions right now. I still smile when I think about our reunion in Philadelphia. It was such a wonderful time. I love history and it was there in spades. The Memorial Service at Christ Church was amazing. And the Mummies! I still don't know how to describe them, except to say they were so much fun! Thanks to Les Penny for leading the conga line. You will forever be my idol!

When it comes to the 2020 Reunion, I have mixed emotions. I'm super excited at the prospect of seeing everyone again. But the thought that it will be our last reunion fills me with sorrow. Still, I know I have been very fortunate to have attended so many reunions, and I try to focus on that.

And speaking of sorrow, how terribly sad I am that Joe Singleton passed away last month. I will be forever grateful to him for all the help he gave me when I took over this newsletter seven years ago. He was so kind and helpful.

I'm not sure how many people know that Joe was the guiding light behind the latest renovation of the website. His vision and guidance made it happen.

Joe had a droll sense of humor and a way with words that I can only envy. How I will miss him.

~ Carroll McGowan



## Thanks for the Reunion

Dear Connie,

Thank you to you and your committee for working many hours to have such a great reunion.

There were some sad moments, but I had a great time meeting new friends. Hope to see you all next year.

Thanks again,

Les Penny



## Looking for Relatives of John Coulon Walsh — *Reprinted with New, Correct Email Address*

Dear Striking Sixth Readers:

This specifically regards our search for a hero's family.

We have just published a book by George F. Conley, Jr., who was

in the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment and landed in Okinawa on April 1, 1945. The book is a museum-quality work of art that took nine years to complete and contains 1,234 images drawn by the author.

The book was created because George dedicated his life to studying the beauties of the natural world to honor the life of his buddy, John Coulon Walsh, who lost his life on Okinawa on May 14, 1945.

We have spent many years searching for a relative of Johnny's family to present them with a copy of this treasure, dedicated to Johnny. We want them to know Johnny's life was honored and not forgotten. Although we have generated almost 70 pages of data and learned a lot about Johnny's family (he was born in

Brooklyn), we still have not found a living relative.

We are asking if you knew George F. Conley, Jr. and/or John Coulon Walsh. We are also asking if you would assist us in our search.

Recently, we presented the book to a local post of the American Legion. They are very encouraging and stand ready to organize a huge celebration when we finally find that special someone. We are also asking if a successful "searcher" would attend that joyful event.

"Hope springs eternal." If anyone can help us, please send an email to:  
**email@starsongcorporation.com**

Thank you for being the extraordinary veterans you chose to be.

Mary Lerner, Editor



## We love men in uniforms!

On the left is new life member of the Association, **Leonard B. Turner** (4th Mar-Wpns). He and daughter Karen (also pictured) attended their very first reunion in Philadelphia this year. Not long after — on October 20 — Leonard turned 98! As you can see, he still fits in his dress blues. Now that's something to be proud of!

On the right is **Joe Petriello**, grandson of the late Sam Petriello (15th Mar-4-L), who many of us met when he accompanied Sam to the 2015 and 2016 reunions. Sam and his buddies in the Sixth made such an impression



on Joe that he decided to become a Marine himself. Congratulations, Joe!!! We know how proud Sam would be!

# History of the Marine Corps Ball

by Bob McCalmont

The annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball is a celebration of Marine Corps history and traditions. It represents where the Marine Corps started and where it is now while giving us a glimpse of the past, present and future. Throughout the world on 10 November, Marines celebrate the birth of their Corps — the most loyal, feared, revered, and professional fighting force the world has ever known.

In 1921, the 13th Commandant, General John A. Lejeune, issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921. General Lejeune's order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps. It further directed that the order be read to all Marines each year on 10 November to honor the founding of the Marine Corps.

Soon after, Marine commands began to not only honor the birthday, but to celebrate it. In 1923, the Marine Barracks at Ft. Mifflin, PA staged a formal dance. The Marines at the Washington Navy Yard arranged a mock battle on the parade ground. At Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Marine baseball team played a Cuban team and won with a score of 9 to 8, but this was only the beginning.

The first "formal" Birthday Ball took place in Philadelphia in 1925. Guests included the Commandant, the Secretary of War (known today as the Secretary of Defense), and a host of statesmen and elected officials. Prior to the Ball, General Lejeune

unveiled a memorial plaque at Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the Marine Corps. Then the entourage headed for the Benjamin Franklin Hotel for an evening of celebration.

Over the years the annual Birthday Ball grew, taking on a life of its own. In 1952, Commandant General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr. formalized the cake-cutting ceremony and other traditional observances.



The birthday cake is traditionally cut with a sword. The first three pieces of cake are given to the Guest of Honor, the oldest Marine present, and the youngest Marine present. Another tradition is the reading of General Lejeune's order and the current

Commandant's birthday message to the Corps.

Like the U.S. Marine Corps itself, the annual Birthday Ball has evolved from modest origins to the dignified function it is today.

On 10 November, regardless of where Marines are stationed or deployed, you will always hear "Happy Birthday, Marine."





# Send Us Your Old — and We Mean Old — Reunion Pictures

So next year is our 50th and final reunion. That's quite a long and honored tradition, wouldn't you say? We'd like to commemorate it in our newsletter and on our website with pictures of reunions from decades past.

Can you help? We're looking for one or more of your best pictures — decent quality photos that will reproduce well in print. The older the better. Ideally,

you should be able to identify the people in the photos, although it's not absolutely necessary.

Digital photos can be emailed to me at [chm1423@aol.com](mailto:chm1423@aol.com) or texted to me at 412-303-2906.

Hard copy photos can be mailed to me at 1423 Pueblo Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228. If you provide your mailing address, I

promise to return them to you. If you don't want to put your precious photos in the mail, you can take a photo of them with your cell phone and email or text them to me.

So the next rainy day, please start digging through your archives. We'd love to see what you've got.

~Carroll McGowan

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## How Long Will the Newsletter Continue to be Published?

We are committed to putting out the Striking Sixth in 2021 and 2022. After that we will have to see how many subscribers we have.

Long term, we believe the best vehicle for keeping the memory of the Sixth Marine Division alive is our website — [www.sixthmarinedivision.com](http://www.sixthmarinedivision.com)

When the newsletter comes to an end, we'll be focusing most of our resources on beefing up the website. We envision it as a place where people can go to learn all about the division, the battle of Okinawa, and the men who fought there. The basic outline is there now, but we have lots of material to add.



**2006 Reunion—Harrisburg, PA**

Minnie Belle Sanner, Christina Sanner Smith, William Sanner, Paul Sanner

**Here's a couple of examples of what we are looking for.**

*These pictures are from the collection of the late Bill Twigger. We thank his daughter, Nancy, for passing them on to us. And we thank Bill for labeling all his photos!*



**1973 Reunion—Washington DC**

back: H. Simes, Sam Saggiotes, Frank Greene, Bill Twigger, Mike Senko, Wayne Snyder, Jack Crary

middle: Vic DiMartino, Tony Mangano, Dominic Fioriti, W. Wanamaker

front: unknown, Ed Tomaiolo, Bill McCann

## Former Newsletter Editor, Joe Singleton, Now Reporting from Heaven



It is with great sadness that I learned Joe Singleton passed away on October 5, 2019 in Nevada in the company of his four children and other loved ones. It was three months after he celebrated his 94th birthday.

As many of you know, Joe was the editor of the Striking Sixth for more than a decade ending in 2012. That's when I took over the newsletter. Unlike Joe, who was a professional journalist, I had no idea what I was doing. I read through several past newsletters to get an idea of what the Striking Sixth was all about, and then I began firing emails to Joe. They were full of questions. I was so annoying, I thought Joe might volunteer to take back the newsletter rather than have to deal with my never-ending questions. But that's not Joe. He patiently answered every single query and gave me all the information I needed to get that first newsletter out the door. He was equally helpful when he, Connie and I decided to resurrect the website. What vision he had!

Joe was bright and witty, and boy could he write. Here's something he wrote for the website a few years ago:

"There are not many of us left at this writing in 2016, but we remember. It was one hell of a time. It is 70 years later, but we hope you find it interesting. It certainly was interesting to us back then."

Joe was interested in everything it seemed. That probably explains why he was such a good journalist. It certainly made him a great conversationalist. He had a lot of experiences to draw on, having lived all over the country, fought in World War II and Korea, attended the Universities of Texas and Denver, and had numerous jobs. Everyone loved to talk to him. According to his son,

"Near the end, his rooms at the hospital, acute care and hospice facilities were crowded with his children, their/his friends, and the nurses, CNAs and practitioners who would always linger well beyond their work to talk with him because he always greeted them with a smile, politeness and good conversation."

That's the Joe I knew and loved! I will miss him dearly. RIP, Joe. Thanks for all your help, and thanks for always making me laugh!

~CHM



# 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.

Bagnell, Thomas	6th Marine Division	04/04/85
Buckley, Aaron E.	4th Mar-1-HQ	2010
Cantwell, Daniel F. Sr.	29th Mar-3-H	03/22/19
Casper, Richard G.	22nd Mar-2-G	09/17/17
Griggs, Truman M.	22nd Mar-1-A	08/26/12
Graustein, Ernest J.	4th Mar-3-I	08/25/19
Hall, Charles L. D.	9th Amphib Bn	07/18/19
Jack T. Magnuson	22nd Mar-1-A	06/15/11
Otley, Richard A. Sr.	22nd Mar-2-E	07/05/19
Singleton, Joseph	29th & 6th Mar-2-F	10/05/19
Suero, Orlando	22nd Mar-1-B	08/19/19
Tierney, Charles	29th Mar-3-G	07/28/79
Whitten, Morris (Ed)	15th Mar-2-HQ	05/30/19

## Reporting Deaths

Deaths should be reported ASAP to:

**Patty Payne, Membership Chair**  
(410) 978-2979

[pjpayne1984@verizon.net](mailto:pjpayne1984@verizon.net)

AND

**Harry McKnight, Chaplain**  
(614) 866-3456

[barbandht6321@aol.com](mailto:barbandht6321@aol.com)

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## Patty Payne Takes Over as Membership Chair

She's run marathons, done triathlons, and hosted reunions, so she obviously has a lot of energy. Not to mention discipline and an appetite for work hard. That's why we are thrilled to introduce Patty Payne as our new Membership Chair.

Patty's dedication to the Sixth Marine Division is legendary. You may recall she hosted the 2018 Reunion in Baltimore. In addition, she has faithfully attended every reunion since her father passed away in 2015, fulfilling the promise she made to him on his death bed. Clearly, she's someone you can count on.



Patty Payne with the color guard at the 2018 Reunion in Baltimore

Patty's ties to the Marine Corps are not limited to her father. Her son Patrick served as a Combat Engineer for the Marines for 8 years and did 2 tours in Iraq.

We are extremely fortunate that Patty has agreed to take on this critical job for the Association.

Going forward, please send your newsletter and Association dues and all donations to Patty. You can also contact her with any questions about membership:

**Patty Payne**  
439 Chalfonte Drive  
Catonsville, MD 21228  
(410) 978-2979  
[pjpayne1984@verizon.net](mailto:pjpayne1984@verizon.net)

Thanks, Patty! We look forward to working with you.

~CHM

# Flo Dornan Retires as Membership Chair

We have good news and bad news.

*The good news:* Flo Dornan has recovered from her illness and is doing well! Everyone was thrilled to see her at the reunion in Philadelphia, and she was excited to be there. Anyone who knows Flo knows she loves to get together with members of the Association, and she loves to travel whenever she can.

*The bad news (at least for us):* Flo has decided to retire as Membership Chair after faithfully taking care of the Association's membership responsibilities for the past 17 years.



Flo Dornan with daughter Doreen Walker at the 2019 reunion

This was not an easy decision for Flo. She enjoyed the job, especially hearing from and chatting with Association members. They, in turn, loved talking with Flo. She was unfailingly friendly and helpful.

Flo took great care with the Association's records, keeping the roster up to date and creating the mailing list for each edition of the Striking Sixth. In addition, she provided all of the information on deaths, donations, new members, and mail call for the newsletter. As the editor, I can tell you Flo met every deadline she was given, which I sincerely appreciated. She is a true professional and delightful person, and I will sincerely miss working with her.

On behalf of the Association, I wish Flo a long and happy retirement and thank her for a job well done.

~CHM

## Donations

### General Fund

Mary Jacot

Leonard B. Turner

## New Members

Stuart Kohn

Associate Life Member

19 Rosedale Avenue, Apt. 1

Millburn, NJ 07041

973-378-5798

stuay@comcast.net

Leonard B. Turner

Regular Life Member

4th Mar-Weapons

75 Planters Row

Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

# Thank You, Flo!

**If you want to get the Striking Sixth in 2020,  
SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY!**

Check your mailing address on the back cover — the date on the far right above your name is the year your newsletter subscription expires. If it's 2019, you need to send a check for \$10 to continue receiving the newsletter.

Send your check to our new membership chair:

Patty Payne

439 Chalfonte Drive

Catonsville, MD 21228

# 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 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 per issue.

## Donations

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

Newsletter Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Website Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

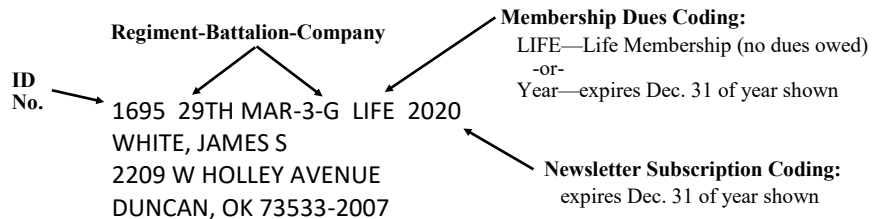
**Make check payable to Sixth Marine Division Assn.** Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Patty Payne, 439 Chalfonte Drive, Catonsville, MD 21228**

E-mail: [pjpayne1984@verizon.net](mailto:pjpayne1984@verizon.net) Phone: (410) 978-2979

**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.



# From the Historian's Corner

## FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA, PART ONE

Fredericksburg was established by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1728 on land that was originally patented in 1681. It is surrounded by Stafford and Spotsylvania counties. It sits along the Rappahannock River, right at Virginia's fall line, which exists between the Appalachian piedmont and the Atlantic coastal plain. This fall line made Fredericksburg a major commercial and trading area. Farmers from the "frontier" of central Virginia sent their trade goods to Fredericksburg by wagon. When they reached Fredericksburg, the goods could be stored in the city's many warehouses or loaded onto ships that sailed down the deep and placid Rappahannock to the ocean and on to England.

At the time of Fredericksburg's founding, the plantation economy was moving out of Tidewater Virginia and further west, and tobacco exports were growing rapidly. Fredericksburg was ideally located for tobacco shipments, and the city became a burgeoning commercial center with a thriving port. (I tell my students that Fredericksburg was the New World's New York at this time.) Merchants and a middle class evolved to support

the shipping commerce.

Fredericksburg also developed culturally and politically. The city served as a meeting ground for patriots during the period of growing unrest that led up to the American Revolution. A draft of resolutions for declaring independence from Britain was drawn up at the Rising Sun Tavern, one Fredericksburg's earliest inns. Many of the men from this area became Revolutionary War heroes and founding fathers of the new nation, including James Monroe and George Washington. George's mother, Mary Washington, also lived in the area. (Today the University of Mary Washington resides in Fredericksburg, and is the alma mater of this author)

After the war, in 1781, Fredericksburg was officially incorporated as a town within the new Commonwealth of Virginia, and its commerce continued to expand. The city was no longer dependent solely on tobacco, as settlers in Virginia's western counties discovered other crops that were profitable. Fredericksburg adapted to meet the needs of the new economy. For example, grist mills were built, and by 1816, 160,000 barrels of flour were milled in Fredericksburg.



In addition, domestic markets were growing, and finished products were shipped to American cities such as New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, rather than solely to England.

In the late 1840's, Fredericksburg's fortunes changed as the railroad bypassed the city, and it became a sleepy backwater. However, its location fifty miles from both Washington DC and the Confederate capital of Richmond put it back in the limelight as the drums of the Civil War began to beat. That is the next part of the story, which will be featured in the spring Striking Sixth.

### Sources:

<https://www.fredericksburgva.gov>

Goolrick, John T. *Historic Fredericksburg: The Story of an Old Town*. Whittet and Sheperson, Richmond, Virginia, 1922

# The 50th and Final Reunion!

## September 22-27, 2020

### Fredericksburg, Virginia



Innis House, Fredericksburg Battlefield

## THE LAST ONE???

All we can say is nothing lasts forever. And none of us lives forever. So it had to come to an end sometime.

Not so long ago we had multiple families competing to host the reunions. In recent years, few people have raised their hands. And fewer vets are able to make the trip.

We also have less money than we used to. Hotels require up front deposits and a commitment to fill a minimum number of rooms before they will offer discounted room rates and reserve the rooms for us. The Association has to eat the cost if we don't fill the rooms. After next year, we don't think we'll be in a financial position to front the money and take the risk.

**But let's not hang our heads. It's been a great run — 49 reunions and counting! We're going to have number 50 in 2020! And we promise it will be fun!**

## SNEAK PEEK

Hotel — Wingate by Wyndham

Room Rate — \$99 plus tax (singles & doubles)

Hotel Amenities:

- Refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, and flat screen TV in each room
- Free buffet breakfast
- Free WIFI
- Free parking
- Fitness center plus indoor pool and hot tub
- Limited number of accessible rooms
- Directly off I-95
- Room rate available 3 days before & after

Fredericksburg has a charming 40-block historic district with more than 350 18th and 19th Century buildings plus unique shops, pubs, and restaurants. There's a lot of colonial and Civil War history in the area. The nearby Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park preserves some of the most important battlefields of the Civil War. Plus, it's only 20 miles from Quantico. We'll definitely plan a trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

**Look for more information in the Spring edition of the Striking Sixth, due out in late March/early April.**



# Sixth Marine Division Association

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## Striking Sixth Newsletter

**Fall 2019**

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**Our 50th and Final Reunion! ~ Fredericksburg, VA ~ September 22-27, 2020**

*See page 23 for 2020 Reunion info.*