

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 44 No. 2

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Summer 2019



2019 Memorial Service To Be Held at Christ Church

IF IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR BEN FRANKLIN, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR US!

We told you this reunion is going to be special. As in first class all the way. That includes the Memorial Service that will be held in Christ Church, one of the country's most beautiful and elegant 18th Century buildings. Read more about it on page 6.

You'll find other reunion info on pages 2 and 7-11.



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2019 Reunion — Make Your Plans!

HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Complete your Registration Form (pages 9-10) **and** Hotel Reservation Form (page 11).
Please note!!! All hotel reservations must be made through Sharon Woodhouse by July 31 in order to get the special discounted rate.
- Mail **both** forms to Sharon Woodhouse at the address on the form.

DON'T WAIT!

After July 31, room rates will be MUCH higher and room availability is NOT guaranteed.



top — carriage ride (old fashioned Uber?)
bottom — Elfreth's Alley in historic core

QUESTIONS???

Call or email Sharon Woodhouse:
phone: (503) 799-4455
email: sjawoodhouse@gmail.com

DEADLINE — JULY 31

for Registration Form and
Hotel Reservation Form



top — Museum of the American Revolution where our Grand Banquet will be held on Saturday night
bottom — City Tavern where we'll have lunch on Thursday



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22nd Marines	D.C. Rigby
29th Marines	Neal McCallum
6th Motor Trans Battalion	Vacant
6th Medical Battalion	Oscar Soifer
6th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6th Tank Battalion	Vacant
6th Pioneer Battalion	Vacant
6th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6th Recon Company	Joe Singleton
6th JASCO	George McAfee
1st Amphibs	Vacant

MEMBERSHIP MGR.

Florence R. Dornan
Note: While Flo is recovering from a medical issue, Connie Houseweart is covering for her.

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Striking Sixth Newsletter

This newsletter is an official publication of the Sixth Marine Division Association and is published three times each year.

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

Connie Houseweart
258 Sechler Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

Please make checks payable to:

Sixth Marine Division Assn.

For more information, please contact Connie at:
(570) 433-4402 or almostnuts@comcast.net

**The deadline to send in your forms
for the 2019 Reunion is July 31.
If you miss the deadline, the hotel rate
will rise significantly and we can't
guarantee rooms will still be available.**

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

Major Henry Courtney's Medal of Honor Comes Home

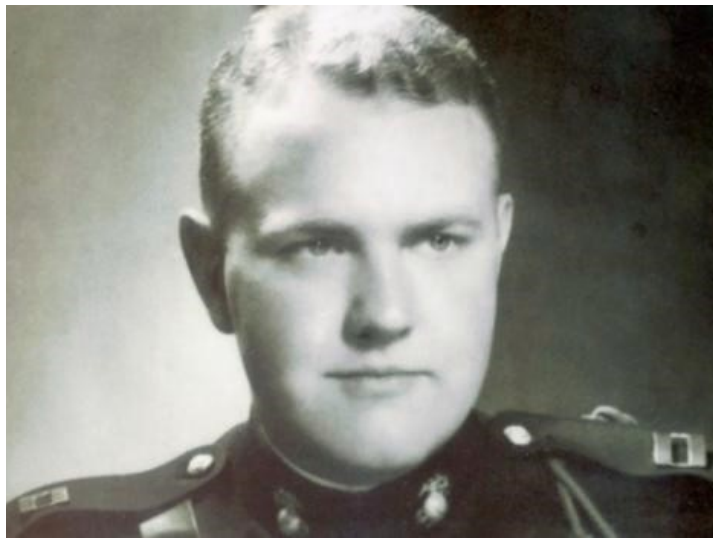
Major Henry A. Courtney Jr. is one of six members of the Sixth Marine Division to earn the Medal of Honor. He earned it – and gave his life – leading his troops up Sugar Loaf Hill on 15 May 1945. President Harry S. Truman awarded Major Courtney the Medal of Honor posthumously on 30 December 1947.

Courtney's medal was initially held in the home of one of his sisters before she turned it over to the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, PA in 1980 for safekeeping and educational purposes. The Foundation is a national educational non-profit that sponsors programs to encourage responsible citizenship. Its 42-acre Medal of Honor Grove honors all the 3500+ Medal of Honor recipients.

Several years ago, family members began trying to get Major Courtney's Medal of Honor moved to his hometown of Duluth, Minnesota. Working with the Freedoms Foundation and the St. Louis County Historical Society in Duluth, the family was finally successful at bringing the medal home. On 29 May 2019, it was installed in the Veterans

Memorial Hall in Duluth. At the installation ceremony, family and community members spoke about Major Courtney's bravery and sacrifice, and his nephews read from the letters he wrote home during the war.

Major Courtney's medal is currently on loan from the Freedoms Foundation. The Veterans



Medal of Honor Recipient Major Henry A. Courtney

Memorial Hall hopes to earn the trust of the Foundation and keep the medal permanently.

Major Courtney was born on 6 January 1916 in Duluth, The son of an attorney, he became an attorney himself after earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and a law degree from Loyola University in Chicago. In 1940 he was admitted to the bar in Minnesota and Illinois, shortly after joining his father's law firm.

Major Courtney was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserves in February 1940. A month later he was placed in command of the Duluth unit of the Marine Corps Reserve, which was mobilized and sent to San Diego for training. He participated in the first US offensive of World War II

when he commanded a company of the 1st Marine Division at Guadalcanal. His next and last combat action was Okinawa.

As the Executive Officer of the 2d Battalion, 22d Marines, Major Courtney was on Okinawa on 14 and 15 May 1945.

After leading his command in a prolonged fire fight, he was ordered

to hold for the night in static defense behind Sugar Loaf Hill. Major Courtney weighed the effect of a hostile night counterattack against the tactical value of an immediate marine assault. Deciding in favor of initiating the assault, he sought and gained permission to advance and seize the forward slope of the hill.

After instructing his small remaining force, Major Courtney

(continued on next page)

Major Henry Courtney

(continued from prior page)

led the way forward, blasting nearby cave positions and neutralizing enemy guns as he went. Inspired by his courage, his men followed, braving concentrated Japanese gunfire to skirt the hill on the right and reach the reverse slope. Temporarily halting, Major Courtney sent guides to the rear for more ammunition and possible replacements.

Subsequently reinforced by 26 men and an LVT load of grenades, he determined to storm the crest of the hill and crush any planned counterattack.

Leading his men by example, he pushed ahead hurling grenades into cave openings on the slope with devastating effect. Upon reaching the crest, he observed large numbers of Japanese forming for action less than 100 yards away. Major Courtney im-



Major Courtney's Medal of Honor

mediately attacked and succeeded in killing many of the enemy while forcing the rest to take cover in the caves. Determined to hold, he ordered his men to dig in. Disregarding flying enemy shrapnel, he rallied his weary troops, assigned his men to

more advantageous positions, and aided casualties. In so doing, Major Courtney was killed by a hostile mortar burst.

Through his leadership, military acumen, and decisive action in the face of overwhelming odds, he contributed significantly to the success of the Okinawa campaign.

In 1948, Major Courtney's remains were moved from the Sixth Marine Division Cemetery on Okinawa and reinterred in Calvary Cemetery, Duluth, Minnesota. Fittingly, his Medal of Honor now resides in his hometown as well.

It Is the Soldier

by Charles M. Province, U.S Army, ©1970, 2011

It is the Soldier, not the minister
Who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the press.

It is the Soldier, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer
Who has given us freedom to protest.

It is the Soldier, not the lawyer
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Soldier, not the politician
Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

2019 Reunion — Christ Church

GEORGE WASHINGTON AND BEN FRANKLIN PRAYED HERE!

Here's your chance to sit in the very pew where George Washington sat. Or maybe you'd prefer to sit where Ben Franklin, John Adams or Betsy Ross sat. They – along with 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence – all worshipped in Christ Church, where we will have our Memorial Service.

The church was originally founded in 1695 as part of William Penn's charter for the colony of Pennsylvania. When the congregation outgrew its original small wooden church, they began construction on the current building, one of the finest Early American structures in North America. Erected between 1727 and 1744, it's a beautiful example of colonial Georgian architecture, featuring a classical exterior and arched windows. The steeple was added in 1754, making the church the tallest structure on the continent for 56 years.

The simple yet elegant interior of Christ Church features fluted columns and a beautiful brass chandelier that has been hanging overhead since 1740. Other treasures include the fourteenth century baptismal font where William Penn was baptized (a donation from a church in London) and the original eight bells that proclaimed independence from England in 1776. Outside, the church's burial ground is the final resting place for more than 4,000 members of the congregation, including Ben Franklin.

Christ Church remains an active Episcopal parish and is part of Independence National Historical Park. We think it's the perfect place for our Memorial Service.

Please note: buses will take everyone from the hotel to the church and back at no charge.

Thank You to Our Reunion Donors!

- **Comcast Corporation**
- **Independence Visitor Corp.**
- **Former Philadelphia Mayor and Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell**
- **The family of the late James McGuigan (29th Mar-3-G)**
- **Reunion hosts Buzz Bissinger and Lisa Smith**

Please see the **Spring Striking Sixth** (available online at www.sixthmarinedivision.com) for info on transportation from the airport and around the city.



Christ Church as painted by William Strickland in 1811

2019 Reunion — Loews Philadelphia Hotel



AMAZING ROOM RATES

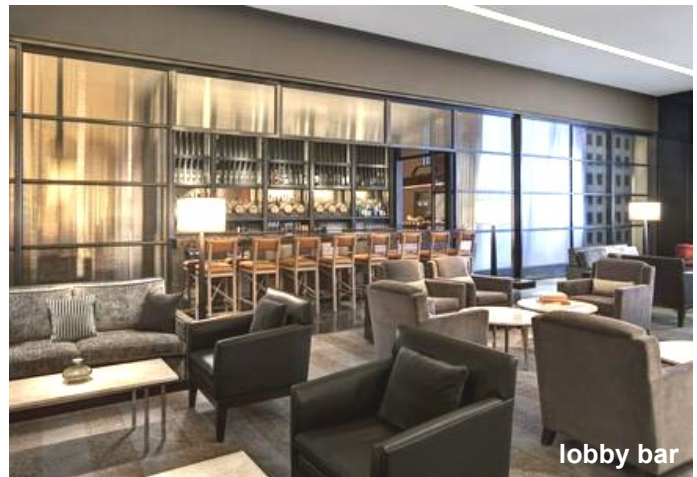
- Doubles and singles are **only \$115** a night
- Room rate **includes all taxes and two \$25 breakfast vouchers** (one voucher for singles)
- Additional adults in room are charged \$25/night
- Rooms have one queen or king bed or two double beds, a flat screen TV, mini-bar and complimentary internet access
- Check in is 4:00 pm; check out is 11:00 am
- Room rates are available 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates
- **Limited number of accessible rooms**, so get your reservation form in early if you need one
- **Free valet parking** (thanks to the generosity of Buzz Bissinger and Lisa Smith)

SURROUNDED BY HISTORY

- Housed in a lovingly-restored, 33-story historic landmark just minutes from great shopping and great eating
- Within 1.5 miles of:
 - Independence National Historical Park
 - Liberty Bell
 - Betsy Ross House
 - Ben Franklin's grave
 - Museum of the American Revolution
 - National Constitution Center
 - Philadelphia Art Museum & Rocky Statue
 - U.S. Mint
 - Reading Terminal Market

ONSITE DINING

- Bank and Bourbon full service restaurant
- Lobby Lounge for drinks and small bites
- POD Market offering fresh pastries, coffee, grab & go salads, snacks, and drinks
- 24-hour room service



IMPORTANT NOTICES — PLEASE READ!

- **Hotel reservations must be made by completing the form on page 11 and mailing it with your check or credit card number to Sharon Woodhouse (address on form). Your credit card will be charged around August 15.**
- **If you call the hotel directly, you will NOT get our discounted rate.**
- **If you make your reservation after July 31, you will pay the normal rack rate, which is significantly higher than our discounted rate. And there may be no rooms available.**
- **The hotel will ask you for a credit card number when you arrive — it is for incidentals only.**

2019 Reunion -- Schedule

Cost per person

Registration Please register in the Hospitality Room after you arrive. **\$25.00***
 Someone will normally be there to register you from 9:00 am
 until the evening each day, except during field trips.

Breakfast will be served in the Bank and Bourbon Restaurant from 6:30-10:00 am each day

Tuesday, August 27

3:00 pm-10:00 pm 6thMarDiv Hospitality Room
 6:00 pm-8:00 pm **Meet and Greet Reception with Ben Franklin** **\$10.00**
 (snacks included)

Wednesday, August 28

8:00 am-10:00 pm 6thMarDiv Hospitality Room
 10:00 am-3:00 pm **Tour and Barbecue Lunch on USS New Jersey** **\$49.00**
 4:30 pm-8:00 pm **Barbecue Dinner at the Home of Jim and Theresa McGuigan** no charge

Thursday, August 29

8:00 am-10:00 pm 6thMarDiv Hospitality Room
 10:00 am-3:30 pm **Philadelphia Bus Tour, Independence Hall, Liberty Bell,** **\$35.00**
and Lunch at City Tavern
 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Executive Board Meeting

Friday, August 30

8:00 am-6:00 pm 6thMarDiv Hospitality Room
 11:00 am-2:00 pm **Tour and Box Lunch at the National Constitution Center** **\$20.00**
 6:00 pm **General Meeting and Auction** no charge
 (heavy hors d'oeuvres included)

Saturday, August 31

10:00 am **Memorial Service at historic Christ Church** no charge
 with color guard, bag piper and bugler
 6:00 pm-9:00 pm **Grand Banquet at the Museum of the American Revolution** **\$49.00***
 dinner, guest speaker, officer installation, and entertainment

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

2019 Reunion -- Registration Form

Please complete **both sides** of this form.

Send form with a check made payable to 6th Marine Division Assn.
to Sharon Woodhouse at 14150 SW Hart Road, Beaverton, OR 97008 **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 _____

Check all that apply to you:

- Attending my 1st reunion I will NOT be staying at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel
 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) _____
 Willing to pick up veterans and wives/widows at the airport (must provide cell phone above)
 Will bring auction item Willing to help as needed

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

Will be arriving in Philadelphia by _____ on _____
(mode of transportation) (arrival date)

For Sixth Division Marines, wives and widows who are traveling with no family members only:

Do you want us to pick you up at the airport? _____ We would be happy to do so!

Arrival info:

Airline: _____ Flight # _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Departure info:

Airline: _____ Flight # _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Cell phone # while traveling: (____) _____

For all others:

There is a SEPTA train that leaves from all terminals of the airport and travels to city center in about half an hour. Or you can taxi or uber. See the spring Striking Sixth (page 6) for more info.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

Contact name: _____

Relationship to you: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete the reverse side

2019 Reunion -- Registration Form, page 2

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

Tuesday, August 27

6:00 pm-8:00 pm **Meet and Greet Reception with Ben Franklin** # attending ____ x \$10 = \$ _____
 (snacks included)

Wednesday, August 28

10:00 am-3:00 pm **Tour & Barbecue Lunch on USS New Jersey** # attending ____ x \$49 = \$ _____

4:30 pm-8:00 pm **Barbecue Dinner at the McGuigans** # attending ____ (for planning)

Thursday, August 29

10:00 am-3:30 pm **Philadelphia Bus Tour, Independence Hall,
 Liberty Bell, and Lunch at Old City Tavern**
 Please indicate # and lunch choice ———> Chicken Madeira # ____ x \$35 = \$ _____
 Beef Bourguignon # ____ x \$35 = \$ _____

Friday, August 30

11:00 am-2:00 pm **Tour and Box Lunch at National Constitution Center**
 Please indicate # and lunch choice ———> Cheesesteak # ____ x \$20 = \$ _____
 Garden Salad # ____ x \$20 = \$ _____

6:00 pm **General Meeting and Auction** # attending ____ (for planning)
 (heavy hors d'oeuvres included)

Saturday, August 31

10:00 am **Memorial Service at Christ Church** # attending ____ (for planning)

6:00 pm-9:00 pm **Grand Banquet, Museum of the American Revolution**
 Please indicate # and dinner choice ———> Braised Ribs # ____ x \$49* = \$ _____
 Note: dinner is free for Sixth Division Salmon # ____ x \$49 = \$ _____
 Marines, wives/signif. others & 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

Questions? Contact Sharon Woodhouse -- sjawoodhouse@gmail.com or (503) 799-4455

2019 Reunion -- Hotel Reservation Form

You must complete this form to secure your hotel reservation.

Please send the form with your credit card number *or*
a check made payable to 6th Marine Division Assn.
to Sharon Woodhouse at 14150 SW Hart Road, Beaverton, OR 97008 **by July 31.**

FIRST ROOM:

Name for hotel reservation _____
Mailing address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ Email _____
Arrival date _____ Departure date _____
Number of people in room: _____ Adults (18+) _____ Children (0-17)
Bed type (check one): _____ one queen or king bed _____ two double beds
Check if needed: _____ Accessible room _____ Rollaway bed (charge may apply) _____ Crib

SECOND ROOM:

Name for hotel reservation _____
Mailing address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ Email _____
Arrival date _____ Departure date _____
Number of people in room: _____ Adults (18+) _____ Children (0-17)
Bed type (check one): _____ one queen or king bed _____ two double beds
Check if needed: _____ Accessible room _____ Rollaway bed (charge may apply) _____ Crib

PAYMENT INFO

_____ I am enclosing a check made payable to 6th Marine Division Assn*
_____ Please charge my credit card: **(Please note your card will be charged around August 15.)**
Credit card number: _____
Name on card: _____
Expiration date: _____ Security no. _____
(Month) (Year) (3 digits on back of card)

Note: Rooms reserved after July 31 will NOT get the special discounted rate.

***If you are writing a check:**

Check should be for total # room nights (number of rooms x number of nights) multiplied by \$115, plus additional \$25 charge per person per night for 3rd and 4th adult (18+) in each room. Make check payable to **6th Marine Division Assn.** Please call Sharon Woodhouse at (503) 799-4455 to verify correct amount.

Chaplain's Report



In the time of Christ, when a traveler stopped at an inn to rest and have a meal, his order would come on a plate with a large napkin. In those days, they ate with their hands. When they went to check on their animals, they would fold and roll the napkin and put it next to the plate as a message to the inn-

keeper that they would return and finish the food.

Peter, entering the empty tomb, found that the burial shroud covering Christ's head was folded and rolled near where His head would be. This tells us He will return. What will he find us doing?

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

From the Editor



I have never lived in Philadelphia, but my roots are there. My parents, grandparents and great grandparents all grew up there. As a child I visited the city annually to see my grandparents and cousins. And my parents told me many stories about growing up in Philadelphia.

Early in my career, the bank I worked for (Mellon Bank) bought a bank in Philadelphia (Girard Bank) where my grandfather had worked years earlier). I traveled there on business occasionally. I stayed in the hotel where my mom had her senior prom, and I shopped at Wanamaker's where my mother spent her entire paycheck.

Several years later, Mellon bought PSFS, a savings bank that was headquartered in the building that currently houses the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, our reunion hotel.

So our reunion in Philadelphia will feel like a homecoming for me. For those of you who haven't been to a reunion and don't have ties to the city, please come anyway! I can guarantee you will be warmly welcomed by the other attendees. We'd love to get to know you!

~ Carroll McGowan



Harry McKnight Meets Mr. Spock

In the last issue of the Striking Sixth, Harry told us about a bad reaction he had to the antibiotics he took when he was in the hospital. According to Harry, he was on the Starship Enterprise standing next to Mr. Spock.

Thanks for sending us a picture from your encounter with Spock, Harry! If we close our eyes, we can hear him saying, "Live long and prosper."

**This nation will remain
the land of the free
only so long as it is
the home of the brave.**



Looking for Relatives of John Coulon Walsh

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 6th Marine Division, 29th Regiment and landed in Okinawa on 1 April 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 14 May 1945.

We have spent many years searching for a relative of John'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 starsongcorporation.com.

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

Mary Lerner
Editor

Navajo Code Talker John Pinto Passes Away

Hi, just sharing — another one of the Navajo Code Talkers has passed away.

Hope all is well with each of you. We are so sorry to have missed another reunion.

God Bless all our 6th Division Marines, Spouses, and Widows.

Hugs,
Jean and Bill Steed



Summer 2019

"You're in the military? What do you make?"

What do I make? I make holding your child's hand possible everyday. I make five minutes seem like a life time. I make going to war for your freedom a duty that I will die for. I can make your children have a future before terrorists attack us. I make myself get out of bed at 3:00 am (0-dark 30!) to risk my life to save your freedom. Today I might make the ultimate sacrifice to save your life. I make a difference. Now, what do you make?

Eileen Follows Dick Whitaker to the Gates of Heaven

A popular interviewee, Richard (Dick) Whitaker was well known for his incisive commentary on what it was really like on Okinawa in the spring of 1945. He is featured in "Rise of the Valiant" and other documentaries, and he is quoted in many books and articles. We are fortunate he shared his experiences with us, because on 17 April 2019, Dick went to guard the gates of heaven. His beloved wife Eileen passed away exactly one week after Dick on 24 April. They are survived by a son, two daughters and three grandchildren.

A celebration of Dick and Eileen's lives was held on June 13 on board the USS Yorktown in South Carolina where Dick volunteered for the past ten years. His fellow Fox Company buddies, Neal McCallum and Ken Wells were there to pay their final respects to a man that was as kind and witty as he was articulate.

Dick was born in 1926 in Saugerties, New York. As a senior in high school, he caught a bus to Albany, New York thinking he would probably join the Army. Instead, standing in a line of draftees, he passed the recruiting station of the Marine Corps. He evidently liked what he saw because he was soon on his way to South Carolina to become a Marine.

After completing boot camp at Parris Island and infantry training at Camp Lejeune, Dick was assigned to the 29th Regiment. On his 19th birthday, he boarded a ship bound for Okinawa. He was assigned to Fox Company as a company runner in a machine gun platoon. He was wounded during the battle for Sugar Loaf Hill on 17 May 1945.

Dick credited smoking for saving his life while on Okinawa. While sitting in his fox hole one day near Sugar Loaf Hill, he leaned over to get a light from a buddy when a sniper's bullet hit his hand, which was positioned where his head had been seconds earlier! Slightly wounded, Dick missed just a couple of days of combat before returning to Fox Company for duty.

After the war, Dick returned home and graduated from Syracuse University with a BA in Journalism and Public Relations. He worked for Shell Oil and Utica College before becoming Director of Development for Kent

School from 1962 to 1989. He was instrumental in raising funds for many sports facilities that are still standing, including the Nadel hockey rink.

Dick founded the Kent Squirt hockey program and served as head coach for 15 years. He also served as a member of the volunteer fire department for 21 years.

After his retirement, Dick and Eileen moved to Oriental, NC where they enjoyed sailing for nearly ten years. They later moved to Mount Pleasant, SC where they enjoyed the low country life. Dick began volunteering on the USS Yorktown, an aircraft carrier commissioned in 1937 and sunk at the battle of Midway.

Dick and Eileen attended many reunions, where they often treated the Fox Company vets and their wives to a group dinner. They will be missed by the Fox Company men who survive them, as well as all those who got to know them over the years.



Eileen and Dick Whitaker at the 2013 Reunion



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.

Bailey, Kenneth L.	29th Mar-1-A	06/19/87
Carey, Leo W.	6th Marine Division	01/1980
Galvin, Henry F.	6th Tank Bn-H&S	03/24/03
Gianacakes, Thomas G.	22nd Mar-Weapons	11/19/18
Likins, Merle R. Sr.	15th Mar-3-K	12/14/18
Mistretta, Salvatore	6th Tank Bn-B	07/15/18
Walker, Ernest D.	22nd Mar-2-E	05/31/19
Whitaker, Eileen	wife of Richard Whitaker	04/24/19
Whitaker, Richard	29th Mar-2-F	04/17/19

Reporting Deaths

Deaths should be reported ASAP to:

Connie Houseweart, President
(570) 433-4402
almostnuts@comcast.net

AND

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



Fourth of July Fun Facts

- The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies. Their average age was 45. Ben Franklin was the oldest signer at age 70. The youngest was Thomas Lynch of South Carolina at age 27.
- Only two men signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4 – John Hancock and Charles Thompson. Most signers put pen to paper on August 2.
- John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826. James Monroe also died on July 4, but five years later.
- The only President born on the July 4 was Calvin Coolidge (in 1872).
- Thomas Jefferson held the first Fourth of July celebration in the White House in 1804.
- Bristol, Rhode Island has been celebrating the Fourth with a parade since 1785.
- The first fireworks celebrating Independence Day were launched in 1777.
- There are now more than 14,000 fireworks displays on the Fourth of July in the U.S. each year — 200 million pounds worth!
- Americans consume 150 million hot dogs on the Fourth of July each year.
- Ben Franklin wanted the national bird to be the turkey instead of the bald eagle.
- There were 2.5 million people living in the U.S. when the Declaration of Independence was adopted.



New Members

Cecil C. Burd
Regular Annual Member
22nd Marines-3-HQ
5800 Old Providence Road
Apt. 6105
Charlotte, NC 28226
502-724-9316

Paul Kirst
Associate Annual Member
Son-in-law of Jack Magnuson
(22nd Marines-1-A)
Spouse: Deborah Magnuson
1300 NW Parkway
Apt. 227
New Brighton, MN 55112
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plkirst@gmail.com

Merle R. Likens, Jr.
Associate LD Life Member
Son of Merle R. Likens, Sr.
(15th Marines-3-K)
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Spouse: Vera
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**over and above*



Philly-style pretzel

**"The Marine Corps has just been
called by the New York Times,
'The elite of this country.'
I think it is the elite of the world."**

—Admiral William Halsey, U.S. Navy

How to Become a Member of the Sixth Marine Division Association

An Application for Membership is on the next page
and can also be found on our website —
sixthmarinedivision.com.

Complete the application and mail it with your check to:
Connie Houseweart
258 Sechler Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

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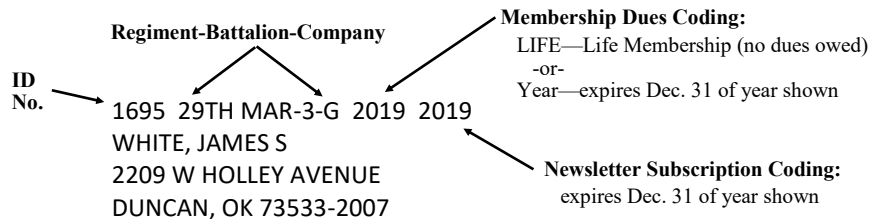
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From the Historian's Corner

TRIBUTE TO THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION

As the historian, I try to educate, or perhaps enlighten, when I write a piece for the newsletter. However, I think this piece will be a bit more reflective in nature. In fact, it is more in line of a tribute.

I have been hearing a great deal about Normandy this past week, and it always makes me think of a bigger, but less famous, battle – Okinawa.

I have also been thinking about a friend who had a great impact on my life.

But first, I must apologize to our dear members of the Sixth, as this may sound like I am “writing you off.” Statisticians say that the last World War II veteran will be gone in 2044. I do not want to wait until then to pay tribute to that generation.

I always turn to Tom Brokaw's, *The Greatest Generation*, when I want to explain my abiding gratitude to the World War II generation. They were profoundly unique not only in how they saved the world, but just as importantly, in how they lived the rest of their lives.

Brokaw says, “When the war ended, more than twelve million men and women put their uniforms aside and returned to civilian life. They went back to work at their old jobs or started small businesses; they became big-city cops and firemen; they finished their degrees or enrolled in college for the first time; they became schoolteachers...They married in record numbers and gave birth to another distinctive generation, the Baby Boomers. They stayed true to their values of personal responsibility, duty, honor, and faith.”

These are the men and women that I have come to respect, admire, and love.

I cannot let the moment go unmarked when one of “my guys” recently went to guard the streets of heaven. It was both a personal and professional

blow. Dick Whitaker guided me through the battle of Okinawa long before I met him. His voice, in George Feifer's book *Tennozan*, and Nils Anderson's voice, on a battered tape at the Battle of Okinawa Museum on Camp Kinser in Okinawa, were the first accounts I heard about what it was like to be a Marine on that Japanese island in 1945. Those voices eventually led me all over Okinawa, exploring its caves and hilltops. Later, I taught others what went on as the last battle of the war raged.

Dick was the second Sixth Division Marine I met in person after I returned to the States from Okinawa. (Jim Chaisson was the first.) Over the next few years, my husband and I went with Dick and his wife, Eileen, to Marine Corps balls and weapons demonstrations.

We broke bread and drank a few pints. Dick taught me so much and, in part, because of him, *Stay Off the Skyline* was written. [Editor's note: *Stay Off the Skyline* is the book Laura wrote about the Sixth Marine Division on Okinawa.]

There will never be another generation like Dick's. Many of us remember them with love and gratitude. And we will continue to share their stories with others.

So, what can I say to all of the wonderful Marines who made my life richer, and my book possible, but...stay off the skyline.

~Laura Lacey



The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example."
~ Benjamin Disraeli, English politician and author

From the Historian's Corner

ARCH STREET MEETING HOUSE CEMETERY, PHILADELPHIA

Mr. Lester Penny (29th Mar-2-HQ) recently sent me an article from the Philadelphia Inquirer (April 2013). I did a bit of research and added my own touches to it.

While you are in Philadelphia you might want to take a trip to the Arch Street Friends Meeting House. You will find a bit of Marine Corps history there.

Buried on the site in an unmarked plot for two centuries were the remains of the first Commandant of the Marine Corps, Samuel Nicholas. This "captain of Marines," as we have discussed before, had an illustrious career. He fought with George Washington, led the Marines first amphibious landing in the Bahamas, helped take Nassau, and obviously, was the first Marine recruiter.

Of course, there is more to the story. Samuel Nicholas was a Quaker. William Penn brought Quakers to Pennsylvania in 1682. He founded the colony as a safe place for Quakers to live and practice their faith. Over the years, Quakers have been a signifi-



cant part of the movements for the abolition of slavery, equal rights for women, and peace. They are also pacifists.

Nicholas gave up his religion, and in fact was "read out" of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia. After the war he was readmitted, and when he died he was buried in the Arch Street cemetery.

Early Quakers did not believe in tomb stones, which they believed were used to demonstrate wealth and privilege. So the Commandant was buried with no headstone. In 2013, the Marine Corps League worked with the Quakers, and a small grey marker was placed in the cemetery. It simply says:

Samuel Nicholas
1744-1790

Each November 10, Marines mark his grave with a wreath at dawn.

~Laura Lacey

The Arch Street Meeting House is located at 320 Arch Street, one mile from the Lowes Philadelphia Hotel.



Arch Street Meeting House

Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011



Striking Sixth Newsletter

Summer 2019

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**Happy
Birthday,
USA!**

**We hope
you had a
great 4th
and saw
lots of
fireworks!**

**See page
15 for
fun facts
about the
4th of July.**