

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 45 No. 3

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Fall 2020

## Sixth Marine Division Veterans Honored at the 75th Commemoration of the End of World War II



**NEAL McCALLUM**  
Cpl, USMC  
Candor, NC

What an honor! Neal McCallum and Kenneth (“Doc”) Wells (both of 29th Mar-2-F) were invited to the 75th Commemoration of the End of World War II in Pearl Harbor on September 2, 2020. Alas, COVID-19 interfered, and only residents of Hawaii were permitted to attend. Nevertheless, the ceremony was broadcast online, and both Neal and Doc were honored virtually, along with nearly 100 other WWII veterans.

*See page 3 for more information.*



**KENNETH WELLS**  
PFC, 6th Marine Division  
Attawa, OH

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“It’s because of your selfless service and your sacrifice that we live in peace and prosperity today, and it is your legacy that inspires us in our efforts to uphold the freedoms and values for which you so nobly fought.” ~ Secretary of Defense Mark Esper at the ceremony



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*\*Since we were unable to have a meeting of the Association in 2020, officer terms have been extended to 2021.*

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## Striking Sixth Newsletter

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Catonsville, MD 21228

**Please make checks payable to:**

Sixth Marine Division Assn.

For more information, please contact Patty at:

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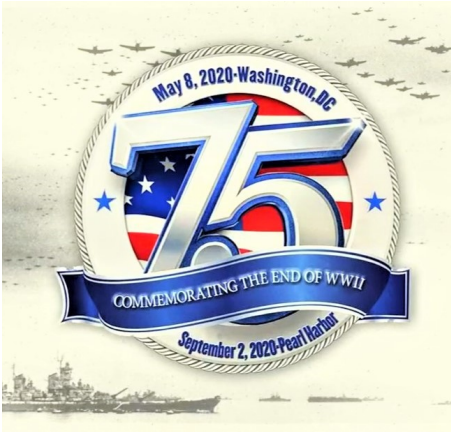
**Dues for the  
2021 Striking Sixth Newsletter  
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Send a check for \$10 to  
Patty Payne (address to right)**

**Letters to the editor, materials for publication, suggestions, and feedback can be sent to:**  
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# 2020—75th Commemoration of the End of World War II

*Pearl Harbor, September 2, 2020*

The ceremony began with a stirring aerial parade. Vintage aircraft flew over the USS Missouri, tipping their wings in tribute.



These were the same aircraft that flew over the Missouri in a gesture of peace and international friendship on September 2, 1945 when the Japanese formally surrendered to the allied powers.

After a pass and review by the USS Michael Murphy, the World War II veterans who were in attendance on the Missouri were introduced. Then the MC read the names of the 77 veterans who were unable to attend because of the pandemic, and their pictures were shown on the screen. These included the Sixth Marine Division's Neal McCallum and Kenneth ("Doc") Wells. (See their pictures on the cover.)

A number of speakers paid tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the veterans. These included David Ige, Governor of Hawaii; Admiral Philip Davidson, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command; General Mark Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (virtually); and keynote speaker Mark Esper, Secretary of Defense.



Doc Wells with a commemorative t-shirt, one of the gifts he and Neal received as a remembrance

The commemoration also included presentation of the colors, the Star Spangled Banner, video footage of the actual surrender, an international wreath ceremony, a tribute to fallen service members, and a missing man formation aerial salute.

Interviewed about the end of the war, honoree Neal McCallum said, "We did what the American people expected us to do. If we're heroes, we're all heroes. But the real heroes are the ones who never came back."

In truth, every man and woman who has answered the call to defend our freedom deserves our enduring gratitude.



USS Missouri, Pearl Harbor, September 2, 2020

Watch the commemoration online at [www.75thwwiicommemoration.org](http://www.75thwwiicommemoration.org)



# 1945—Japanese Formally Surrender on the USS Missouri

On August 14, 1945, the Japanese cabled their surrender to the U.S. The formal signing took place on September 2 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. The battleship, which had seen action at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, was chosen because Missouri was Truman's home state.



USS Missouri, September 2, 1945

Hundreds of Marines and sailors witnessed the solemn and dignified 23-minute ceremony overseen by General Douglas MacArthur. The choice of MacArthur was unpopular with many people who felt the Navy and Marine Corps had contributed the most to the defeat of the Japanese. However, Truman had tapped MacArthur to lead the occupation of Japan, so he got the nod.

Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz and Admiral William "Bull" Halsey received the Japanese delegation. After a prayer and the playing of the Star Spangled Banner, MacArthur gave a brief speech.

Then the Japanese stepped forward to sign the Instrument of Surrender. Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu, wearing a top hat, signed for the Japanese government, and General Yoshijiro Umezumi signed for the Japanese armed forces.

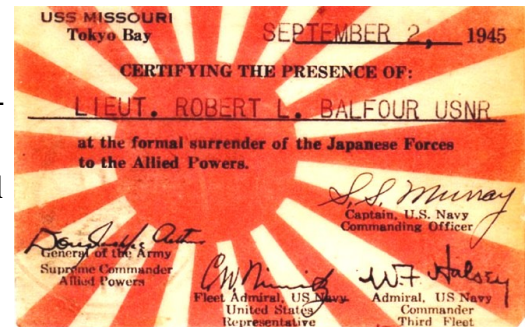
As he signed the surrender as Supreme

Commander for the Allied Powers, MacArthur was accompanied by General Jonathan Wainwright and British General Arthur Percival, who had pre-

sided over the humiliating surrenders of the Philippines and Singapore, respectively, in 1942. The two men had recently been released from Japanese prisoner of war camps in August 1945.

MacArthur signed the surrender documents using five pens. He gave one each to General Wainwright, General Percival, the US Naval Academy and US Military Academy; and he kept one for himself. Representatives of nine allied nations, including Admiral Nimitz, also signed the documents.

As the Japanese were escorted off the deck, the sun came out, as if on cue. More than 2,000 allied aircraft flew in formation over the Missouri, and World War II was officially over.



Wallet card souvenir of the surrender produced in the print shop of the USS Missouri. A card was issued to each man who was on board the battleship during the surrender ceremony.



Japanese delegation arrives for the surrender, September 2, 1945



# 1945—Japanese Formally Surrender on the USS Missouri



## Remarks by General Douglas MacArthur

“It is my earnest hope, and indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past — a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance, and justice.”

left: General Douglas MacArthur speaks during the surrender ceremony on the USS Missouri, September 2, 1945. In the background is the flag flown by Commodore Perry when he sailed into Tokyo Bay on September 8, 1853, thus opening Japan to the outside world. The flag's presence symbolized the future reopening of Japan to the world.

*We, acting by command of and in behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, hereby accept the provisions set forth in the declaration issued by the heads of the Governments of the United States, China and Great Britain on 26 July 1945, at Potsdam, and subsequently adhered to by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, which four powers are hereafter referred to as the Allied Powers.*

*We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated.*

*We hereby command all Japanese forces wherever situated and the Japanese people to cease hostilities forthwith, to preserve and save from damage all ships, aircraft, and military and civil property and to comply with all requirements which may be imposed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by agencies of the Japanese Government at his direction.*

*We hereby command the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters to issue at once orders to the Commanders of all Japanese forces and all forces under Japanese control wherever situated to surrender unconditionally themselves and all forces under their control.*

*We hereby command all civil, military and naval officials to obey and enforce all proclamations, orders and directives deemed by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers to be proper to effectuate this surrender and issued by him or under his authority and we direct all such officials to remain at their posts and to continue to perform their non-combatant duties unless specifically relieved by him or under his authority.*

*We hereby undertake for the Emperor, the Japanese Government and their successors to carry out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration in good faith, and to issue whatever orders and take whatever action may be required by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers or by any other designated representative of the Allied Powers for the purpose of giving effect to that Declaration.*

*We hereby command the Japanese Imperial Government and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at once to liberate all allied prisoners of war and civilian internees now under Japanese control and to provide for their protection, care, maintenance and immediate transportation to places as directed.*

*The authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the state shall be subject to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers who will take such steps as he deems proper to effectuate these terms of surrender.*



Instrument of Surrender

USS Missouri, September 2, 1945



## The Last Toast

Many years ago, someone skilled in woodworking created a display case to hold a special bottle of Scotch whiskey. Each year at our great reunions, the bottle was placed for auction, with the highest bidder becoming the custodian of the bottle until the next reunion. The winner would also have his name engraved on a bronze plaque on the front of the case.

The bronze plaque also carried a message for the last two survivors of the Sixth Marine Division. They were instructed to get together, open the bottle, and propose a final toast to all those of the Sixth Marine Division who had passed before them.

Each year, bidding for the bottle of Scotch was aggressive. Proceeds from the auctions were donated to a scholarship fund at VMI (Virginia Military Institute) where Lemuel C. Shepherd, Commanding General of the Division on Okinawa, attended as a cadet. Descendants of those who served in the Sixth Marine Division were eligible to apply for a VMI scholarship.

Then one year, there was no bottle to auction at the reunion. Many people were upset. What happened to the bottle? It remains a mystery to this day.

No one remembers the last person who won the bottle, nor can anyone provide an accurate description of the display case.

One rumor circulated that the bottle was donated to the museum at VMI. Recently, I tried calling the museum, only to learn that all of the VMI Museums are closed indefinitely due to the current virus threat.

Under the circumstances, perhaps it is just as well. Even if the last known Sixth Marine Division survivors could be identified at some date in the future, would they be able to meet?

These are the facts to the best of my knowledge.

Semper Fi,  
Watson Crumbie

Editor's note: If anyone has any information about what happened to the bottle, please contact me, Carroll McGowan:

Email — [chm1423@aol.com](mailto:chm1423@aol.com) or  
Phone — 412-341-9219.

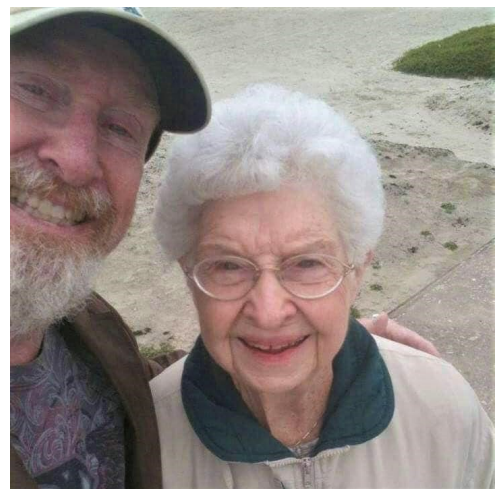


## Minnie Belle Sanner Gives Zoom Talk on Polio Epidemic

On September 18, Minnie Belle Sanner, widow of Bill Sanner (29th Mar-2-F), spoke at her son Bill's Rotary International Club zoom meeting about her experience serving as a nurse during the polio epidemic.

Minnie Belle graduated from nursing school as a Registered Nurse in 1949 and began working at City County Hospital (now known as John Peter Smith Hospital) in Fort Worth, Texas. At age 20, she was working in the polio ward, which was a very busy place when she started her career. She is likely one of only a few polio healthcare workers still living.

Polio has existed for thousands of years, but in the 1940s and 50s, major outbreaks appeared in the United States and Europe. It created a scare similar to what we are seeing today with COVID-19.



Minnie Belle Sanner as a nurse in 1949 (left), and with her son Paul Sanner today (above)



# From the Archives: December 1971 Newsletter

Thanks to Lisa Benedetti for sending us an early version of the Striking Sixth newsletter. Dated December 1971, we believe it's one of the Association's earliest newsletters. It's shorter and more primitive than later versions of the Striking Sixth, no surprise since it was created in the days before PCs and publishing software.

The newsletter is just eight pages, and six of them list the names and contact info for 195 veter-

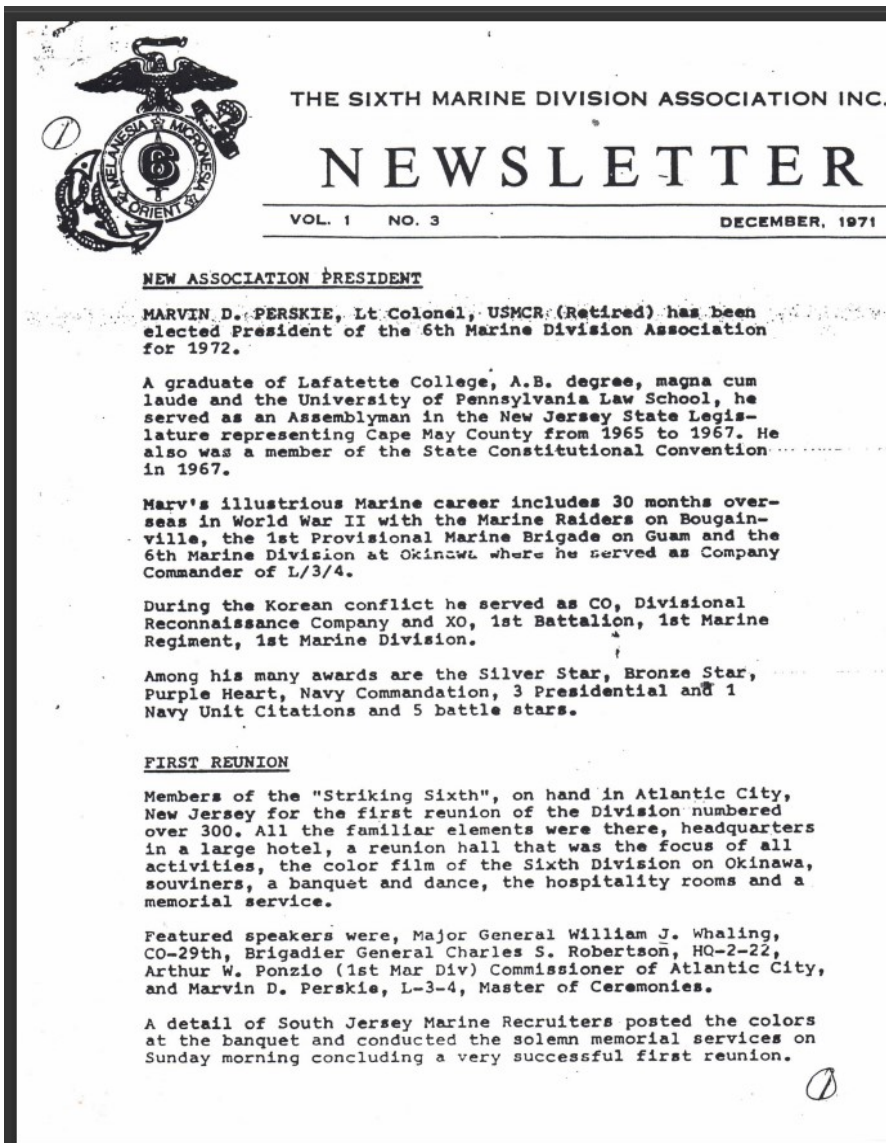
ans who attended the reunion in Atlantic City earlier that year. To the best of our knowledge, that was the first Association reunion.

Other news reported in the December 1971 issue:

- Announcement of the election of Association President Lt Col (ret) Marvin Perskie
- Brief report on the reunion
- Taps
- Donations

- Notice of lapel/tie tacks being mailed to Association members
- A book recommendation — *Okinawa: Touchstone to Victory* by Benis M. Frank, available for purchase at \$1 (now available on Amazon for \$5)
- The 1972 reunion committee for the coming reunion to be held again in Atlantic City

**This newsletter has been posted on our website. Eventually, we hope to scan and post more old newsletters. Lisa has them back to 1992. If anyone has any earlier issues, please let us know. We could scan and return them to you.**



cover page of the Sixth Marine Division newsletter, December 1971

## What Happened to the Striking Sixth's Color Pages?

If you're reading this newsletter in print, you might have noticed it's not very colorful. It has fewer pages too. What gives?

It's simply a cost saving measure. With the number of subscribers declining, newsletter dues no longer the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. In order to continue sending you the Striking Sixth through 2021 and 2022, we needed to reduce the cost.

Please note you can find a full color version of this newsletter on our website. You can also find most of the old newsletters going back to fall 1998:

[www.sixthmarinedivision.com](http://www.sixthmarinedivision.com)

# From the Historian's Corner

## NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS EXPANDS

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is continually changing. It was authorized by Congress in the late 1980s, construction began in 2004, and it opened on November 10, 2006. More than 500,000 people visit each year. It is a public/private venture and is free to the public. Donations (about \$60 million) paid for the construction, and appropriated funds (about \$30 million) helped with exhibits, studies, etc.

Construction of the 115,000 square foot addition to the museum — the final phase — is complete, resulting in a total footprint of more than 200,000 square feet! The next job is to fill it!

Recently, the museum opened an extension of the Legacy Walk

including exhibits on Marines performing humanitarian missions, Embassy security, 9/11, Marine Corps families, and a section honoring fallen Marines. For me, the Embassy Marines section is very exciting. My father was a Marine Guard, and they have been in some interesting situations throughout the years. It is well done, and a reminder of our nation's larger foreign policy history.

Still under construction are new historical galleries that will tell the Marine Corps story from 1976 to the present. The estimated time-frame for completion is sometime in 2025.

Two future exhibits scheduled for the second half of this decade will, I think, be very informative. A new gallery will cover Marine



Corps sports. Many people are not aware of the Marines' involvement in early football and baseball. They fielded competitive teams and played against collegiate teams. The other new section that should be enlightening is an Inter-War Years Gallery (1919-1940).

At current count, 575 artifacts have been chosen to illustrate Marine Corps history in the new

*(continued on next page)*



The final beam of the final phase is moved into place



# National Museum of the Marine Corps Expands

*(continued from prior page)*

galleries. These include everything from an F/A-18 Hornet to a set of blood-crusted ribbons. The F/A-18 is hung in a way that has never been done in any museum before.

Speaking of airplanes, the museum may have been closed because of COVID-19, but that does not mean the museum staff were idle. Two new aircraft were installed in the Leatherneck Gallery: a World War II SBD Dauntless and a Vietnam-era Sikorsky UH-34D.

- The Dauntless “dives” at guests and showcases the heroic actions of the commanding officer of Marine Scout Bombing Squadron 232 (VMSB-232) and his observer/gunner over Guadalcanal in August 1942.
- On the floor is a Vietnam War-era tableau depicting Marines heading for cover as they exit a Sikorsky UH-34D helicopter during Operation Starlite in 1965. Active-duty Marines and a Corpsman were used as models to create the cast figures for the new exhibit.



World War II SBD Dauntless dive bomber

Each trip to the museum makes one appreciate anew the “First to fight” ethos and the selfless service that Marines have exhibited throughout their history. The National Museum of the Marine Corps continues to grow,

and its revolving exhibits ensure it will never get old (as if it could) and that being a Marine will always mean something.

For more information:  
<https://www.usmcmuseum.com/finalphase.html>



Vietnam-era Sikorsky UH-34D helicopter

# Marines to the Rescue!

by Hope Hodge Seck, *Military.com*, May 5, 2020

Three [Marines](#) who sprang into action to restrain a hostile and disruptive fellow passenger are now being recognized by their unit commanding officer for their bravery and quick thinking.

The incident happened Monday on a flight from Tokyo to Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in Texas. The three North Carolina-based Marines, all assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, were Capt. Daniel Kult, Sgt. John Dietrick and Pfc. Alexander Meinhardt. They had been traveling back to the U.S. for various reasons, about halfway through a six-month Unit Deployment Program pump in Okinawa.

During the flight, according to a Marine Corps news release, a passenger barricaded himself inside one of the plane's bathrooms and loudly began to make what officials described as threatening comments.

"While watching a movie during my flight from Japan to Texas, I started to hear screaming coming from the restroom on board," Dietrick, an infantry assault section leader from Mechanicsville, Virginia, said in a statement. "When I took off my headphones, I heard a man sounding very distraught and screaming from the bathroom."

The Marines then moved quickly, according to the release. While a flight attendant got the door unlocked, the three men grabbed the passenger and used flex ties to bind him. They took him back to a seat and stayed with him to make sure he remained restrained for the rest of the flight.

"I knew I had to step in when he became a danger to others and himself," said Meinhardt, a mortarman from Sparta, Wisconsin. "I didn't think twice

about helping restrain him through the rest of the flight."

Kult, an infantry officer from Coons Rapids, Iowa, credited the Marines' quick, decisive actions to their training.

"We just assessed the situation and acted," he said. "Working with the flight crew, we got the door

open and from there worked together to subdue him. We didn't take time to talk it over. We just got ready and did what we needed to help."

In light of the episode, the plane was rerouted to the Los Angeles International Airport. The problem passenger was disembarked and sent to a mental health facility for evaluation, according to the release.

The incident will be investigated by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for

the Central District of California, officials said.

Of the bravery of the three Marines, their battalion commanding officer simply said he was not surprised.

"I happen to know all three of them, two of them well, and they are all what I would call 'men of action,'" Lt. Col. Chris Niedziocha, commander of 1/6, said in a statement. "I'm continually amazed by and grateful for the people we have in this battalion."

It's not the first time U.S. service members in transit have jumped into action to prevent a disaster. Perhaps most famously, a soldier and an airman traveling on a train in France in 2015 helped to avert a terror attack -- and were eventually awarded honorary French citizenship in thanks for their efforts.



Capt. Daniel Kult, Sgt. John Dietrick, and Pfc Alexander Meinhardt of 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, May 4, 2020



# Oral Histories Recorded by Sixth Marine Division Vets

In the last issue of the Striking Sixth we told you that the World War II Museum in New Orleans is collecting oral histories from veterans who participated in the war. Unfortunately, they had to temporarily suspend the face-to-face interviews due to Covid-19.

However, they provided Lisa Benedetti with a list of Sixth Marine Division veterans who have already been interviewed. See list at right.

According to the museum, some of these interviews are available online, some will be posted in the future, and some will only be accessible for viewing in the Museum's research library (by appointment).

The museum has other interview collections which are in transcript or audio format, but they have not been inventoried, so as of now they can only be searched by hand.

For more information, please contact the Oral History Section of the museum:

Phone: 504-528-1944, ext. 516 or

Email: [oralhistories@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:oralhistories@nationalww2museum.org)

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Samuel Ukrop  
Kenneth Wells  
Richard Whitaker  
Benjamin Wicker  
H. Lloyd Wilkerson

We wish everyone in the Sixth Marine Division Association a Very Happy Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas! And a Happy and Healthy New Year!

## New Members

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son of John Vincent Wulf

## Donations — Thank You!

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Marjorie D. Reeves —  
in memory of Reva Rupe

Dues for the  
2021 Newsletter  
are due on December 31.  
Please send a check  
for \$10 to Patty Payne  
(address on page 2).



# 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.

Coccio, Anthony	22nd Mar-1-B	04/29/20
Graustein, Helen	wife of Ernest Graustein	04/05/20
Grover, Harry	6th Jasco	10/16/20
Kemp, Henry B. Jr.	29th Mar-2-E&F	09/28/18
Lear, Malcolm T.	22nd Mar-3-L	09/08/20
Mohrmann, Frederick A.	6th Marine Division	07/12/20
Rupe, Reva M.	wife of Richard Rupe	08/23/20
Simons, Irving	4th Mar-1-A	02/06/20
Soifer, Oscar	6th Medical Bn, H&S	10/14/20
Vondrak, Frank J.	29th Mar-Wpns	10/20/20
Waring, Robert E.	6th Marine Division	05/02/20

**Reporting Deaths**  
Deaths should be reported as soon as possible to:  
**Patty Payne**  
**Membership Chair**  
**(410) 978-2979**  
**pjpayne1984@verizon.net**  
**AND**  
**Harry McKnight**  
**Chaplain**  
**(614) 866-3456**  
**barbandht6321@aol.com**

## Harry Grover: a Small Town Boy with a Big Heart

Harry Grover (6th Jasco) grew up in the small town of Vanderbilt, Michigan, population 500 including dogs and pregnant cats! Vanderbilt is a beautiful town, especially in October when the leaves change color.



At a young age, Harry learned about hard work on his grandparents' dairy farm; he milked 60 cows by hand every morning!

In 1942, Harry joined the US Marine Corps where he served four years active duty and two years in the reserves. He served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, and he was awarded the Purple Heart on three separate occasions. The first was on Guadalcanal in 1943. The second was in the Marshall Islands in 1943. The third was on Guam in 1944 where his injury forced him off the front lines.

Harry had some memorable moments when he was in boot camp. He met Sonja

Henning, the figure skater. And John Wayne shook his hand, offering him encouragement with the words "Go get 'em!" But the highpoint of his military service was witnessing General MacArthur and Emperor Hirohito signing the Instrument of Surrender at the end of World War II.

In the words of Harry, "Marines are close people. I've made friends that will always watch my back." Until the end, Harry remained close to his friends, and he looked forward to attending the last Sixth Marine Division reunion in September 2021.

Harry's motto was, "Do everything you can today, because you never know about tomorrow." He is survived by four children, 14 grandchildren, and 24 great grandchildren. RIP



## Col. Henry B. Kemp Jr., Proud Marine Corps Reservist

Born in 1923, Henry Kemp (29th Mar-2-E&F) was born and raised in South Carolina. Neal McCallum (29th Mar-2-F) reports that Henry had an accent so thick, he required an interpreter. His teachers must have understood him just fine because he graduated from Trenton High School as valedictorian and later earned a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of South Carolina.

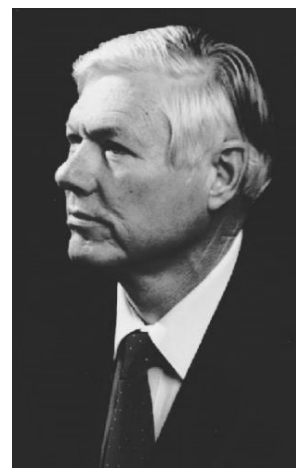
After service with the Sixth Marine Division in World War II where he was a Machine Gun and Mortar Officer, Henry remained on the reserve rolls. Fol-

lowing the war, he became the Comptroller General at Fort Jackson, retiring in 1982.

Outside of work, Henry stayed busy. He was a champion bridge player and was actively involved in the Columbia Philatelic Society [stamps], the Kiwanis Club of Columbia, and the SC Organization of Retired Executives. He was also an active member of his church, where he taught Sunday School and served as a Boy Scout Leader. He was a faithful and devoted father, husband and friend.

Neal tells us Henry was a really smart guy who excelled at

crunching numbers. Those of you who are familiar with Neal's intellect understand what a tribute that is. But even more important than that, Neal says Henry was just a nice guy. And that is the best tribute of all.



---

## Taps (a tribute to Len Gerdeman) *by Harry Stanifer (6th Engineer Bn-C)*

An old Marine died last night,  
he's now at Heaven's door,  
he wasn't lost at sea or on some  
far distant shore.  
For he died in bed, you see, his  
age caught up to him,  
he could no longer reason right  
or stand upon his limb.

An old Marine died last night,  
he's now at Heaven's door,  
he wasn't just a kid, you know,  
but part of the "old corps."  
'Twas the 1930's when he first  
wore  
those blues and shoes that shine,  
and the eagle, globe, and anchor,  
on his hat he wore just fine.

An old Marine died last night,  
he's now at Heaven's door,  
he had that certain swagger and  
aplomb as he walked across the  
floor.  
Though age had bowed him just a  
bit,  
that discipline was still there,  
but near the end he had trouble  
getting out of his chair.

An old Marine died last night,  
he's now at Heaven's door,  
he could tell you of what he'd  
seen without being a bore.  
For he'd been places from  
Paris Island  
to the Pacific Isles.  
Even to the land of China,  
it's all right there in his files.

An old Marine died last night,  
he's now at Heaven's door,  
he's been a civilian for many years  
but he loved that old corps.  
Get out your bugle and play Taps  
for this Veteran of old,  
there's one more Marine recruited  
by God  
to guard those streets of gold.

An old Marine died last night,  
he's now at Heaven's door,  
he was welcomed there, I'm sure,  
by other Marines, with a mighty  
roar.  
He reported for duty with a sharp  
salute  
to St. Peter's crew.  
An old Marine died last night  
and now he's with the chosen few.

## Message from the President



First, I have to say how I have missed seeing everyone this year with not having a reunion. I do want to apologize for that, but it was a unanimous vote of the planning committee to cancel it to keep everyone safe from this nasty virus that has entered our country. Not only you, but the “kids” are also in the susceptible class.

With that being said, I hope that between now and the 2021 Reunion this virus goes away and we can get back to “normal.”

I am so looking forward to seeing all of you at the reunion in Fredericksburg, VA this coming year. We will certainly have lots of things to talk about and share. I do hope to see everyone there.

Please be safe and healthy,  
Connie



**Our flag does not fly  
because the wind moves it.  
It flies with the last breath  
of each soldier who  
died protecting it.**

---

## From the Editor



I belong to the baby boom generation, the cohort that was blessed to have the Greatest Generation as our parents. Are we grateful for this? We should be! But sometimes we can be pretty self-centered. Sometimes it seems like we think nothing happened before we arrived in the world.

My generation seems to know little history, even about World War II, which ended not long before we were born. And later generations (I’m looking at you, Millennials) know even less. When I was in school it seemed like the school year ended before we got to World War II. Today, it seems like history is no longer a priority.

COVID-19 is not the first pandemic to spread throughout the world. The Spanish Flu killed millions in 1918-19. Parents kept their kids out of swimming pools when the polio epidemic raged in the late 1940s and early 1950s. (*See story about Minnie Bell Sanner on page 6.*) Wikipedia has a

very long list of epidemics that have threatened the world since 1200 BC.

So this is not the first year that events have been canceled because of a pandemic. But it’s never happened in my lifetime. My fellow baby boomers and I are getting used to it. But some cancellations are harder than others. Neal McCallum and Ken Wells were unable to attend the 75th Commemoration of the End of World War II. (*See story on cover and page 3.*) But the cancellation of the Sixth Marine Division Reunion this past September caused me and the rest of the reunion planning committee the most heartbreak. We were so hopeful we could pull it off. But as summer wore on, it became obvious it was just too risky.

So now we’re on for 2021. Keep your fingers crossed! In the meantime, best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas! And let’s hope for a happy new year including a reunion in Quantico in September 2021!

~Carroll McGowan



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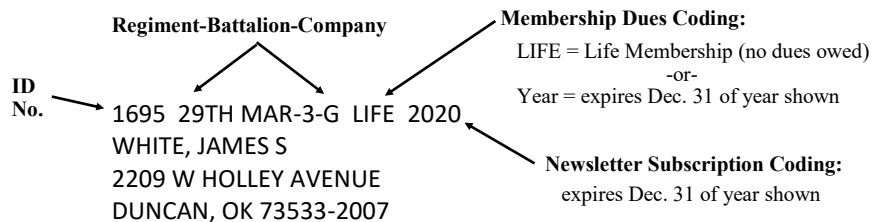
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