

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 45 No. 1

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2020

Reunion 2020 — Fredericksburg, Virginia



September 22—27 at the Holiday Inn Fredericksburg Conference Center

Keep your fingers crossed! As we go to press, we have no idea how long Covid-19 will continue to keep us home-bound. We sincerely hope we'll be able to get together in September, and we're going ahead with plans for the reunion. We'll be in a beautiful, newly-renovated hotel in the historic town of Fredericksburg, VA, and we've negotiated a great rate — \$99 a night plus tax!

We're keeping the schedule simple and uncluttered to allow plenty of time for us to be together in the hotel. If the vi-

rus has taught us anything, it's to appreciate and enjoy time with family and friends.

As always, if you have to cancel for any reason, we'll refund every penny. So you can send your registration form worry-free. In addition, your hotel reservation can be canceled for free up until 6:00 p.m. the day before your reservation starts.

Please see pages 10-14 for all the details. And keep checking our website for updates. If we have to cancel or make any changes, you'll read it there first: sixthmarinedivision.com.

Inside This Issue:

Marine Corps Birthday Balls.....	2
Mail Call.....	3
Officer & Unit Director Listing	4
Chaplain and Editor's Notes.....	5
Historian's Corner-Fredericksburg.....	6-7
Red Books Now on Website.....	8
New Members, Donations, 100 B-Day...8	
Paul Kirst on the 2019 Reunion.....	9
2020 Reunion Field Trips.....	10
2020 Reunion Hotel.....	11
2020 Reunion Schedule.....	12
2020 Reunion Registration Form...13-14	
2019 Annual Meeting Minutes...15-17	
TAPS.....	18-20
Membership Application.....	21
Bivouac of War.....	22
Memorial Day.....	23

Sixth Marine Division Is Well Represented at Birthday Balls!

LEONARD TURNER

Leonard Turner (4th Mar-Weapons) and his daughter Karen attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Wilmington, NC with the Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) from Camp Lejeune in November 2019. They sat next to General David Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Major General Daniel Yoo, Commander of MARSOC.

Appearing in authentic 1945-1948 Marine Corps dress blues with his original regalia, Leonard marched into the ballroom behind the traditional birthday cake as the Marines' Hymn played. He remained steadfast through the entire ceremony and the playing of the Commandant's birthday message, and he stood tall when he was announced as the oldest Marine present (at age 96). All of the Marines in attendance responded with a standing ovation as Leonard passed a piece of birthday cake to the youngest Marine present, 19-year-old Pfc. Ivan K. Lopez.

"The experience was humbling and exhilarating," reported Leonard. "It filled me with a sense of great honor and pride to be a part of this time-honored tradition, allowing me to pass the torch to



the youngest Marine, who in fact is actually from 2nd [Marine] Raider Battalion, as was I over 75 years ago. It ranked high on my life's most memorable events, along with the announcement of Japan's surrender in World War II, my wedding day, the births of my daughter and my son, and my retirement day from General Motors."

Leonard said his favorite experience at the ball was shaking the hands of the younger Marines. The opportunity to meet the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Berger, and his wife Donna was, as Leonard described it, "the icing on the cake!"

JOAN WILLAUER



Meanwhile in Oklahoma, Joan Willauer, widow of Edward B. Willauer (22nd Mar-H&S) and a Marine herself, also attended a Marine Corps Birthday Ball. She was the oldest Marine in attendance, so like Leonard, she had the honor of serving a piece cake to the youngest Marine present. From the smile on her face, we'd say she had a seriously good time!

Watson Charms Mrs. Texas!

Last November, veterans and residents of Atria Cinco Ranch Retirement Living Facility in Katy, Texas travelled to Legacy Stadium to watch a Katy Tiger football game. They were honored guests with priority seating, and the veterans were recognized at halftime. During the game, members of the band and others came out to meet and take photos with the veterans. Judging from the picture below, it sure looks like Watson Crumbie enjoyed the photo session!



Mrs. Texas and Watson Crumbie (29th Mar-1-C) having fun in Katy, Texas!



Christmas at Arlington

Carroll,

I put a wreath on Harry's headstone on Saturday, December 14. [See picture to right.] Arlington looked lovely for Christmas.

Merry Christmas and Semper Fi,
Dolores Bertram



The Boots Are Silent Now

Dear Mrs. McGowan:

I was a bit reluctant about having the lineal descendants take over the reunions, but they have done an excellent job!! Thank you!

Just my thoughts — The tramping boots have been silenced for years now — echoes will long be there. Let the current survivors of the 6th Division put the 6th Marine Division graciously to rest by 2020.

A drink for those who never made it!

Pvt John A. Pimental
"Replacement" — E-2-29



Dolores Bertram and sons at Harry Bertram's (29th Mar-3-I) grave in Arlington National Cemetery



Buzz Gets Around!

Buzz Bissinger is hard at work on his book about the Sixth Division, which is expected to hit the stands in fall 2021.



Buzz Bissinger with Neal McCallum (29th Mar-2-F) in Florida

Have you paid for the 2020 newsletter?

On the mailing label on the back cover, look for the number to the far right above your name — your subscription ends on December 31 of that year.



SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 2019-2020

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT & PRESIDENT ELECT

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

SECRETARY

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

TREASURER

Sharon Woodhouse
14150 SW Hart Road
Beaverton OR 97008
(503) 799-4455
sjawoodhouse@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN

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

EDITOR

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

JUDGE ADVOCATE

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

SERVICE OFFICER

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

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Jim Monbeck
4171 Orange Grove Blvd.
North Fort Myers, FL 33903
(253) 468-8704
milowash@yahoo.com

Unit Directors

4th Marines	George Scott
15th Marines	Vacant
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	Vacant
6th JASCO	George McAfee
1st Amphibs	Vacant

HISTORIAN

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

Striking Sixth Newsletter

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

The subscription rate is \$10 per calendar year.

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

Patty Payne
439 Chalfonte Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228

Please make checks payable to:

Sixth Marine Division Assn.

For more information, please contact Patty at:

(410) 978-2979 or pjpayne1984@verizon.net

**If you haven't paid for your
2020 newsletter yet,
please send a check for \$10 to
Patty Payne (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

Chaplain's Report



President Ronald Reagan once said, "Some people spend their entire lifetime trying to make a difference. The Marines don't have that problem." A quick story as an example...

Two sojourners traveling in a far city came upon a 6-year old maiden begging for her sustenance. She was unwashed and her garments were dirty and tattered. "Shall we show compassion toward this young maiden?" said the one. "Let it be so," said the other, and a plan was developed. One of the sojourners took the girl to a public bath, paid the towel fee, and helped her clean and groom. The other went to a nearby shop and purchased new silky garments for her.

When the maiden was presented with the new garments, she

cried and begged for her old tattered clothes. Back to the shop the sojourners went, and they told their story to the shopkeeper. He explained, "Since the war began and the country has been ravaged, when a family can only provide for three children, if a fourth child is born, the oldest child is forced to leave home and beg to survive." This young maiden was the oldest of her siblings, and she was out on her own. The silky garments offered to her were the kind that "harlots" wore. Even though she was no longer living at home she would not embarrass her family by wearing such garments. And so the new garments were exchanged for more suitable clothes.

The rest of the plan was followed, and the girl was taken to a nearby inn to eat her fill.

The sojourners later learned that in this area of China, young children trying to survive on their own learned to find buildings where the sun had warmed the bricks. They would huddle against these warm buildings at night and use that spot as their personal begging place the next day.

The two sojourners in this story were Privates Jim Martin of Kansas, who had a good command of the Chinese language, and Harry McKnight.

I am sure other Sixth Division Marines who spent time in China after the fighting have similar stories. We would love to hear them.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

From the Editor



My how the world has changed since I wrote my last note in November. I sincerely hope everyone in the Sixth Marine Division Association family is healthy and surviving these challenging times.

Bob and I are enjoying a whole new life as we have come out of retirement to babysit our 3- and 5-year-old granddaughters. It is truly a joy to spend so much time with them, and it is truly exhausting!

We have also been working with the Board of Directors to plan our annual reunion. We are being optimistic and planning as though Covid-19 will be gone by September. We hope you share our optimism and make plans to attend. If you need to cancel for any reason, we will happily refund your money. Hotel rooms can be cancelled with no penalty up until 6:00 p.m. the day before your reservation begins.

Please check our website for any changes to the reunion plans: sixthmarinedivision.com.

There is no doubt that this pandemic is making life difficult for many people. But I think few of us would want to trade places with members of the Sixth Marine Division who were fighting on Okinawa 75 years ago. *That* was a hardship. The entire country is grateful for the sacrifices those Marines made, and we can never repay them for what they did for us.

With endless gratitude,
Carroll McGowan

From the Historian's Corner

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA, PART TWO

During the Antebellum Period (1812-1860), a canal was built in Fredericksburg in an effort to improve transportation and trade. By the time it was completed, however, railroads had made the canal obsolete. In addition, the railroad from Washington to Richmond bypassed the town, weakening its trade and prosperity.

Fredericksburg became a sleepy backwater until the Civil War, when its location midway between Washington and Richmond put it back on the map. For the Union, control of Fredericksburg provided a direct route to Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, as well as a supply line to Washington. For the South, it was a fight they could not lose.

Within a short distance of Fredericksburg there are many Civil War battle sites, including Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, and of course Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg was in the crosshairs many times during the war with catastrophic effect. As an example, between Stafford and the Rappahannock River — a distance of about 15 miles — not a single tree was standing by the end of the Civil War! They had either been blown up or used for cookfires or winter lodgings.

The town of Fredericksburg became a battle site, and several of the downtown churches still bear witness to how bad the street fighting was. You can still

see bullet holes and cannonballs in their facades today.

In fact, Fredericksburg served as the grounds for what was then the largest battle in America and the first urban battle since the Revolutionary War. The battle involved nearly 200,000 combatants, the largest concentration of troops in any Civil War battle. The fight was bloody and difficult — over a river and then uphill for the Union forces, which were commanded by General Ambrose E. Burnside.

Burnside inherited the Army of the Potomac with its 120,000 men on November 7, 1862, and he had something to prove. The Confederate Army, commanded by General Robert E. Lee, though outnumbered, was waiting for them on the high ground.

On December 11, 1862, the Union Army of the Potomac, after bombarding the town with artillery fire, crossed the Rappahannock River and landed at the foot of Hawke Street. They charged into town and ransacked homes and businesses searching for Confederate soldiers. Caroline Street became a stronghold for the Confederates and thus received the brunt of the battle, which extended south to William Street.

Several churches and dwellings, including Federal Hill at 501 Hanover Street, were used as makeshift military hospitals, and the basement of the town hall served as a refuge for slaves during the battle. The town was full



of civilians, primarily women and slaves, hiding in basements and praying for their lives and their property. Only a few died.

Once it was dark, the Confederate Army retreated to Marye's Heights to the south of town. (This area is where the visitor center and cemetery can be found today.)

Two days later, on December 13, a second Union assault was mounted at Marye's Heights. Confederate soldiers were strategically placed behind a stone wall along the Sunken Road. It was a slaughter.

One of the most interesting stories of the Battle of Fredericksburg involved the celebrated Irish Brigade. It was composed largely of Irish immigrants who had come to America in the 1840s and '50s to escape famine and political turmoil in their home country. Their leader, General Thomas Francis Meagher (pronounced "Marr"), was a 39-year-old Irish revolutionary. To remind his men of their heritage,

(continued on next page)

Fredericksburg

(continued from prior page)

Meagher had each regiment carry a green flag bearing an insignia of the golden harp of Ireland. (The one exception was the 116th Pennsylvania, which was not fully Irish.)

After a two-hour wait, the Irish Brigade moved up Caroline Street to George Street. The battle was in full swing now, and Confederate projectiles rained down on the unit with increasing force, putting the men on edge. To steady them, Meagher ordered them to place sprigs of boxwood in their caps. The greenery, he explained, would remind the troops of their Irish heritage.



the stone wall along the Sunken Road where nearly two-thirds of the Union casualties fell, Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park

Officers and men fell in rapid succession. Ignoring its losses, the brigade pressed on toward the ridge, the men dropping by scores. "No cheers or wild hurrahs as they moved towards the foe," remembered Lieutenant Colonel St. Clair Augustine Mul-

holland of the 116th Pennsylvania Infantry attached to the brigade. "They were not there to fight, only to die."

The unit advanced to within 50 yards of the rebel line. By then, almost all the officers were gone, as was any sense of organization. The brigade stood its ground for a few minutes, exchanging fire with the Confederates, then dissolved into a broken, bleeding sea of humanity lying at the foot of the heights. Some ran, and the line broke.

The next morning, just 230 men of the brigade rallied to the colors. Several hundred others straggled in during the day, but nearly half the brigade lay bleeding in front of Marye's Heights.

The Irish Brigade lost 545 men at Fredericksburg (45% of the men it took into the battle), including 14 of its 15 field officers. The only officer above the rank of captain to escape harm was Col. Patrick Kelly. He narrowly escaped death when a bullet pierced his coat just below his spine.

Today, a monument to the Irish Brigade stands at the City Dock, down by the river in Fredericksburg where the brigade had bivouacked prior to the battle.

Lee commanded the battle from atop Telegraph Hill, and this is where he famously said to Longstreet, "It is well that war is so

terrible. We should grow too fond of it."

Lee suffered 5,300 casualties but inflicted more than twice that many losses on his opponent. Of the 12,600 Federal soldiers killed, wounded, or missing, almost two-thirds fell in front of the stone wall. Despite winning in the most overwhelming tactical sense, Lee struggled to replace lost soldiers and supplies. The Battle of Fredericksburg merely delayed the north's move on Richmond until the spring.

After the war, Fredericksburg struggled to recover. The collapse of the plantation system severely impacted the city's economy. The recovery took close to a hundred years. It was not until the development of the highway system that Fredericksburg began to really grow again.

Today, Fredericksburg's downtown, where Confederate and Union soldiers once fought, retains the charm of yesteryear with shopping, restaurants, the University of Mary Washington, and tourist attractions. It is a busy place of residence for Washington D.C. commuters.

Fredericksburg's history is truly the tale of America. The town was an early American trading center and part of the early growth of the nation. It prospered then struggled and survived a war. Today it is a great place to visit and learn about our nation's past.

For more information:

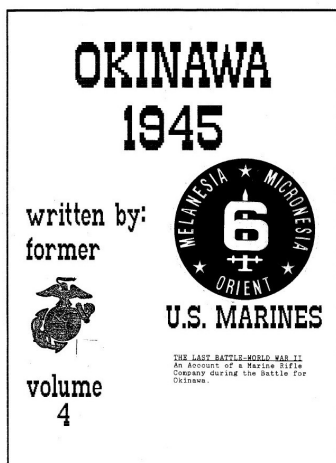
<https://www.nps.gov/frsp/index.htm>

Red Books Now Available on Sixth Division Website

In the 1990s, Kenneth J. Long (29th Mar-3-I) gathered written accounts of the Battle of Okinawa from Marines of the Sixth Division. These are fascinating first-hand stories from the men who were there. Although the stories focus on Okinawa, many of the Marines also wrote about their time in the Corps before and after the battle. There are four volumes of these priceless recollections that also include photos, maps, and other information about Okinawa.

Lisa Benedetti scanned all four volumes from the original hard copies, which were, unfortunately, of poor quality. However, the stories themselves are topnotch. Thank you, Lisa, for tracking down these books and making them accessible to all!

www.sixthmarinedivision.com/16RedBooks.html



Volume 4 of the set

Donations — Thank You!

General Fund

Bennett Bard
Morris Danzig
Forrest Goodrich
Herbert Kinney
Paul Kirst
Joan C. Krey
Jonathan Lynch
John A. Pimental
Charles E. Schneider
Arno Schroeder
Edward J. Whalen

Newsletter Fund

Paul Kirst
Charles E. Schneider

Website Fund

Paul Kirst
Charles E. Schneider

New Members

Ross D. Hood (Joyce)
Annual Associate Member
Grandson of Warren W. Hood (6th Mar 3rd Bn)
626 E. Texas Street
Grapevine, Texas 76051
rosshood@verizon.net

Charles E. Schneider
Associate Life Member
Son of Cyril Russell Schneider (4th Regiment)
938 SW 9th Street
Premont, Texas 78375
skeeterschneider@yahoo.com

Three War Veteran Celebrates 100th Birthday!

On March 18, 2020, Marine Corps Col. (Ret.) Carl Cooper was honored by the Birmingham Veterans Affairs Health Care System on his 100th birthday.

The Alabama native joined the Marine Corps on April 1, 1942. Three years later, he was a 1st Lieutenant with the Sixth Marine Division fighting in the Battle of Okinawa.

Col. Cooper also served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. "I was only doing what my country needed me to do and I came home," said Col. Cooper.



Centenarian Col. (Ret.) Carl Cooper

"The Lord has been good to me and continues to bless me every day," Cooper said.

Congratulations to Marine Corps Col. (Ret.) Carl Cooper, and thank you for your many years of service!

Paul Kirst Shares His Thoughts on the 2019 Reunion

by Paul Kirst, son-in-law of the late Jack Magnuson (22nd Mar-1-A)

My journey to the 49th Sixth Marine Division Reunion actually began in June 2011 after I delivered the eulogy at the funeral of my father-in-law, PFC Jack Magnuson (22nd Mar-1-A). In the eulogy, I speculated that his Marine Corps experience likely influenced the rest of his life. That sparked a desire to learn more about his wartime experiences. Eight years and much research later, my wife Deborah and I attended our first reunion of the Sixth Marine Division.

The five days were a whirlwind of activity, camaraderie, and learning experiences. It was exciting to talk with the vets and family members who are devoted to honoring and remembering the stories of the men of Sixth Marine Division. What a thrill to converse with veterans who had served in the Sixth. Veterans

who had experienced the things Jack had, in some cases only a few hundred yards from where he was.

The members of the Association who warmly welcomed Deborah and me into the Sixth Marine Division family were certainly the most enriching elements of our reunion experience.

Three events stood out for me.

- 1) The tour of the Battleship New Jersey was in some ways the fulfillment of a dream I'd had as a young person. Iowa born and raised, and a military history buff to boot, I had a model of the Battleship Iowa in my room. I'd long had a desire to actually tour the Iowa someday. The New Jersey wasn't the Iowa, but she was her sister ship. And the New Jersey had

been at both Okinawa and Guam where Jack had served in the 22nd Regiment. It might even have provided fire support to his unit during those battles. What a thrill it was to walk the decks and passageways of that highly decorated battleship.

- 2) I don't recall any other time in my life when the meaning, interpretation, and significance of the U.S. Constitution has been more at the forefront of our national discussion than it has been in the past year. Thus, it was awe-inspiring to tour the National Constitution Center and Independence Hall, places that were "ground zero" in the creation of our nation's Constitution. To be at those places at this time was a unique and memorable experience.

- 3) The Memorial Service at Christ Church was the emotional pinnacle for me. The presentation of the colors, the playing of Taps, Bob McGowan reading Jack's name and unit to the ringing of the bell. It all left me with a feeling of deep gratitude that Jack's Marine Corps service — long gone un-spoken of — had finally been honored, and honored most richly.

A deep thanks from Deborah and me to all those who made the 49th Reunion of the Sixth Marine Division a truly memorable experience. I'm looking forward to the 50th in Fredericksburg.



Paul Kirst and Deborah Magnuson at the 2019 Reunion in Philadelphia

2020 Reunion — Field Trips

Trolley Tour of Fredericksburg — Wednesday, September 23

There's so much to see in Fredericksburg, and what could be easier — and more fun — than seeing the main sights by trolley with our group. We've arranged a customized tour to include George Washington's boyhood home, Civil War sights, and other historic attractions.

The tour will run from 2:00 to 5:00, allowing you to have dinner in Fredericksburg's historic core when it's over. You'll find a number of charming restaurants

to choose from. The hotel's shuttle will get you safely back to our hotel. Or if you prefer, you can summon Uber or Lyft.

If you're not interested in dining in town, the trolley will return you to our hotel immediately after the tour.



National Museum of the Marine Corps — Thursday, September 24

This year is the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa. (We're guessing you knew that.) What a wonderful time to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps! If you've never been, don't miss this opportunity. It's

every bit as awe-inspiring as you would expect. Just ask any Marine who has been there.

You'll have plenty of time for lunch on your own at the Devil Dog Diner or Tun Tavern and shopping at the Museum store.

En route to the museum, we will make a quick stop at the Quantico National Cemetery to view the Sixth Marine Division Memorial.

Please note: You may have heard the Museum doesn't give much space to the Sixth Marine Division. Unfortunately, this is true. However, the Board of Directors and Historian Laura Lacey are working to bring the Sixth Division colors to the Museum and give the Sixth Division the space it deserves. We're not giving up that battle!



Please check our website — sixthmarinedivision.com — for changes to and updates about the reunion.

2020 Reunion — Holiday Inn

Fredericksburg Conference Center

20 Sanford Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22406

For reservations call **540-368-8000** and mention code **MD6** to get the special room rate.

Please note that although the hotel is temporarily closed due to the pandemic, they are accepting reservations.

Room Rate: \$99 + 10.3% tax

- for singles and doubles
- available 3 nights before and 3 nights after the reunion
- free cancellation up to 6:00 pm the night before

Amenities

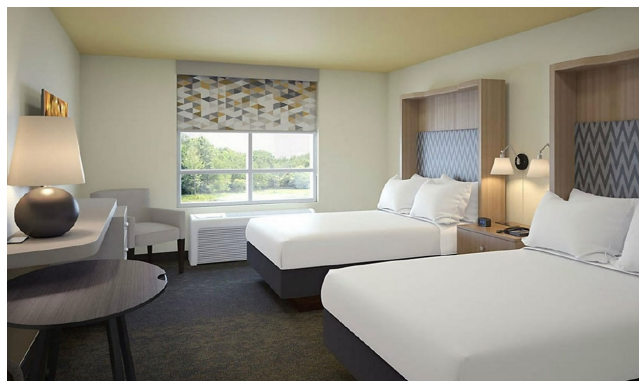
- newly renovated
- refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, and smart TV in every room
- free parking
- free high-speed internet
- heated indoor pool & fitness center

Dining Options:

- Toast to Toast Sports Bar and Restaurant — a fast casual, counter service restaurant concept only at Holiday Inn. The menu features a delicious selection of small bites, bowls, and big bites along with local beer drafts and local wines. You'll also find fresh grab-and-go meals to enjoy in your room, as well as premium coffees and espresso. Serves breakfast and dinner.

Note: Five dollar breakfast vouchers will be provided to Sixth Division Marines, wives and widows.

- A dozen nearby restaurants (most just a 5-minute walk) including Panera, IHOP, Subway, and Dunkin'
- Drive or take the hotel shuttle to historic downtown Fredericksburg where you'll find a number of highly-rated restaurants including Brock's Riverside Grill, Capital Ale House, Castiglia's, and Ristorante Renato.



Double room at the Holiday Inn Fredericksburg Conference Center

Transportation Options

- right off route I-95, minutes from historic downtown Fredericksburg
- Reagan National Airport — 49 miles
- Washington Dulles Airport — 56 miles
- Richmond Int'l Airport — 67 miles
- Fredericksburg Rail Station — 5 miles

Due to the distance, the hotel does not have an airport shuttle and we are unable to provide airport transportation. We suggest taking a taxi, Uber, or Lyft. A taxi from Reagan to Fredericksburg normally runs about \$110 in normal traffic. Uber or Lyft could be as low as \$65-70 unless surge pricing is in effect. Taxis, Ubers and Lyfts from the Dulles and Richmond airports will cost more due to the additional miles.

Reservation Deadline

You must make hotel reservations and return your registration form by **Saturday, August 22**

Questions???

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

2020 Reunion — Schedule

cost per person

Registration	Please register in the Hospitality Room after you arrive. Someone will normally be there to register you from 10:00 am until the evening each day, except during field trips.	\$25.00*
---------------------	--	-----------------

Breakfast will be served in the hotel restaurant each morning, and \$5 vouchers will be provided to Sixth Division veterans, wives and widows.

Tuesday, September 22

3:00 pm-10:00 pm	Sixth Marine Division Hospitality Room	
6:00 pm-8:00 pm	Meet and Greet Reception at the hotel (with hors d'oeuvres)	\$15.00

Wednesday, September 23

8:00 am-10:00 pm	Sixth Marine Division Hospitality Room	
2:00 pm-5:00 pm	Trolley Tour of Fredericksburg	\$27.00
8:00 pm-9:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting	

Thursday, September 24

8:00 am-10:00 pm	Sixth Marine Division Hospitality Room	
9:00 am-3:00 pm	National Museum of the Marine Corps by bus (lunch on your own at the museum)	\$20.00

Friday, September 25

8:00 am-7:00 pm	Sixth Marine Division Hospitality Room	
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	Annual Meeting and Auction at the hotel	

Saturday, September 26

8:00 am-6:00 pm	Sixth Marine Division Hospitality Room	
10:00 am	Memorial Service at the hotel	
6:00 pm-7:00 pm	Reception at the hotel with cash bar	
7:00 pm-10:00 pm	Dinner Banquet at the hotel dinner, guest speaker, officer installation, and entertainment	\$49.00*

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

2020 Reunion — Registration Form (page 1)

Please complete **both sides** of this form and
send it with a check made payable to 6th Marine Division Assn. to:

Sharon Woodhouse
14150 SW Hart Road
Beaverton, OR 97008

by August 22.

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 Holiday Inn

_____ Use cane or walker _____ Use wheelchair _____ Use motorized wheelchair

_____ Will take wheelchair on field trips

_____ Special dietary needs: (please specify) _____

_____ Other special needs: (please specify) _____

_____ Will bring auction item _____ Willing to help as needed

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

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

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

Contact Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete the reverse side

2020 Reunion — Registration Form (page 2)

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

Tuesday, September 22

6:00 pm-8:00 pm **Meet and Greet Reception** # attending _____ x \$15 = \$_____
 (including hors d'oeuvres)

Wednesday, September 23

2:00 pm-5:00 pm **Trolley Tour of Fredericksburg** # attending _____ x \$27 = \$_____

Thursday, September 24

9:00 am-3:00 pm **National Museum of the Marine Corps by bus** # attending _____ x \$20 = \$_____

Friday, September 25

7:00 pm-10:00 pm **Annual Meeting and Auction** # attending _____ (for planning)

Saturday, September 26

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

6:00 pm-10:00 pm **Reception and Dinner Banquet (buffet)** # attending _____ x \$49* = \$_____
**Note: dinner is free for Sixth Division
 Marines, wives and widows*

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

Make check payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn.

Please mail completed form with your check by August 22 to:

Sharon Woodhouse
 14150 SW Hart Road
 Beaverton, OR 97008

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

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting Minutes

Loews Philadelphia Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Friday, August 30, 2019

President Connie Houseweart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She appointed Bob McGowan as Sergeant at Arms.

Roll Call:

Secretary Benedetti took the roll call:

Officers:

President – Connie Houseweart	Present
President Elect – Connie Houseweart	Present
Secretary – Lisa Benedetti	Present
Treasurer – Sharon Woodhouse	Present
Chaplain – Harry McKnight	Present
Editor – Carroll McGowan	Present
Judge Advocate – Bob McGowan	Present
Membership Chairman – Flo Dornan	Present
Public Relations – Jim Monbeck	Present
Service Officer – Jim White	Absent & excused
Immediate Past President – Connie Houseweart	Present

Unit Directors:

4 th Marines – George Scott	Absent & excused
15 th Marines	Vacant
22 nd Marines – D.C. Rigby	Absent & excused
29 th Marines – Neal McCallum	Present
6 th Motor Transportation Bn	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion – Oscar Soifer	Absent & excused
6 th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion – Sal Mistretta	Absent & excused
6 th Pioneer Battalion	Vacant
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6 th Recon Co. – Joe Singleton	Absent and excused
6 th JASCO – George McAfee	Absent and excused
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

Secretary Benedetti declared a quorum was in attendance (at least 30 members).



Spring 2020

President Houseweart stated that the Meeting Notice was published in the 2019 spring and summer issues of the Striking Sixth. A copy was available.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of August 23, 2018:

Ken Wells, seconded by Marvin Skeath, moved to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2018 Annual Meeting as published in the spring issue of the Striking Sixth. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

President Connie Houseweart: No report.

Secretary Lisa Benedetti:

The minutes will be signed and filed now they have been approved.

Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse:

The report covered the period of August 20, 2018 to August 20, 2019 (attached). Beginning Balance of \$23,169.71, Revenues of \$50,861.12, Expenses of \$50,723.65, Ending Balance of \$23,307.18. Treasurer Woodhouse explained the Association had to pay for 150 hotel rooms up front so the revenues were higher due to people paying directly to the Association and the expenses were higher due to the Association then paying the hotel for those rooms. Comcast gave \$15,000 for the reunion and other generous donors gave as well. The cost for three newsletters was \$3,004.52 and they are very well done. Ken Wells asked if 150 rooms were used. Treasurer Woodhouse clarified the Association had 156 room nights.

Chaplain Harry McKnight:

Chaplain McKnight stated people fall through the cracks and do not get on the Taps list. He asked everyone to let him know as soon as they know someone has died or if someone is in a nursing home and needs to get a newsletter.

Editor Carroll McGowan: No report.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan:

Judge Advocate McGowan reported there are 20 large and 15 small bronze grave markers available for free. If any veterans or family members would like one, please see Bob. He will distribute them in the future.

Membership Chairman Flo Dornan: No report.

Karen Turner asked how many new members signed up. President Houseweart replied there were seven or eight, which is great. She reminded everyone their subscription dues of \$10.00 for the newsletter are due at the

(continued on next page)

Annual Meeting Minutes

(continued from the prior page)

end of the year in order to continue to receive the newsletter. These are in addition to the membership dues and should be sent to the Membership Chair.

Service Officer Jim White: No report.

Public Relations Officer Jim Monbeck: No report.

UNIT DIRECTORS' REPORTS: No report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Reunion Committee: Treasurer Woodhouse recognized hosts Buzz Bissinger and Lisa Smith for putting on a wonderful reunion. She noted all the complimentary services, such as buses, provided to help make the reunion very special. There were about 45-50 people average at the events with eight veterans in attendance. Buzz recognized Kate McGuigan and her family, the City of Philadelphia, and Comcast for their contributions. Everyone was phenomenal and recognized what the veterans did. He stated we are a family and he is proud of the city. Someone asked who the committee was so they could be recognized. The Board members assisted Buzz with the reunion and Treasurer Woodhouse stated it was a labor of love and always has been.

Bylaws Committee: Bob McGowan had no report.

Finance Committee: President Houseweart reported the committee met pursuant to Article X (9) of the Bylaws of the Association on September 29, 2019. The books were reviewed and the committee finds that the financial records and reports are in order.

ELECTIONS:

Nominations and Election of Officers:

Secretary Benedetti presented the slate of officers for 2019-20 as follows:

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

She mentioned that Flo Dornan had some health issues last year and regretfully has declined to continue as Membership Chairman. Patty Payne agreed to be considered to take her place. Secretary Benedetti asked for any nominations from the floor.

Ken Wells, seconded by Frank McBride, moved that the slate of officers as presented be accepted. All in favor, motion carried.

President Houseweart thanked Flo for her years of service as Membership Manager and then Chairman.

Unit Directors:

Secretary Benedetti reviewed the current Unit Directors and asked if there were volunteers for any of the vacant positions. Seeing none there was unanimous consent to keep the current unit directors.

Unit Directors for 2019-20:

4 th Marines	George Scott
15 th Marines	Vacant
22 nd Marines	D.C. Rigby
29 th Marines	Neal McCallum
6 th Motor Transportation Bn	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion	Oscar Soifer
6 th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion	Vacant
6 th Pioneer Battalion	Vacant
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6 th Recon Co.	Joe Singleton
6 th JASCO	George McAfee
1 st Amphibs	Vacant



Neal McCallum (top), Lester Penny, Leonard Turner, Herbert Kinney, and Harry McKnight on the USS New Jersey at the 2019 Annual Reunion

2020 Nominating Committee:

President Houseweart asked for nominations of two members at large to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2020.

Treasurer Woodhouse, seconded by Secretary Benedetti, nominated Tiffany Leggett and Mary Brauer. All in favor, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

(continued on next page)

Annual Meeting Minutes

(continued from the prior page)

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentations for Reunion 2020:

President Houseweart stated she and Treasurer Woodhouse had gotten a proposal from Petra Carr for the Wingate by Wyndham in Fredericksburg, Virginia.* Room cost would be \$99 plus tax with a complimentary breakfast. Rates would be good for three days before and three days after the reunion dates. The hotel is being totally renovated. It has a bar and full restaurant. The reunion would be mid to late September. Barbara McKnight asked how close the airport is. Sharon stated there are two; Reagan in Washington D.C. and Richmond airports. They are equal distance from Fredericksburg. Barbara noted those are expensive taxi rides. Patty Payne said she would look into transportation options. Connie explained there would be a trip to the Marine Museum in Quantico along with some other events to be planned. Discussion was held on the fact that school has started by that time so younger members cannot come to the reunion, but was it really an issue given the age of members and relatives. There is a chapel at the Marine Museum, as well as a Raiders Museum. The last time the reunion was held in Quantico was 2014. This would be the 50th Reunion of the Association and the 75th Anniversary of the battle of Okinawa and the end of World War II. It was suggested that perhaps if the Association could contact a public relations person at Quantico, the group could get some leverage.

Barbara McKnight, seconded by Rick Willauer, moved to vote for the reunion to be held in Fredericksburg, Virginia. All in favor, motion carried.

*Note – Subsequent to the annual meeting it was determined that the name of the hotel was changing to the Fredericksburg Hotel Conference Center (a Holiday Inn property).

President Houseweart announced that the buses for the Memorial Service tomorrow will leave at 10:30 a.m. The service will start at 11:00 a.m. Buses will leave at 6:15 p.m. for the banquet. Buzz stated that if anyone was interested in getting a Philadelphia Cheesesteak at Gino's after the Memorial Service, the bus would take people there.

Ken and Natalie Wells displayed the handmade quilt he received from a group of women, Quilts for Heroes, in Havre de Grace, Maryland. He thanked them for it. Veterans have received these over the past few years at the reunions.

Jim Monbeck gave 6th Marine Veterans hats to all the veterans present.

Chaplain McKnight gave the benediction.

Joe Kite, seconded by Marvin Skeath, moved to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. Adjournment 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by,
Lisa Benedetti
Secretary

Attachment to Minutes:

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION Financial Statement 2018-2019

Beginning Balance August 20, 2018	\$23,169.71
Revenue	
Membership dues/news- letters/donations	3,089.50
2018 Auction & 50/50	2,859.47
2019 Reunion	25,342.15
Donations	4,570.00
Comcast Grant	15,000.00
	50,861.12
Expenses	
Printing of newsletters	3,004.52
Membership Manager	754.56
2018 Reunion	9,184.63
2019 Reunion	37,434.44
2018 Reunion Refunds	98.00
Misc. (postage/ink/ paper/bank fees	247.50
	(50,723.65)
Ending Balance August 20, 2019	\$23,307.18



Neal McCallum, Leonard Turner, Kenneth Wells, Harry McKnight, Herbert Kinney, Bennett Bard, and Lester Penney in front of the Liberty Bell at the 2019 Annual 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.

Adams, Sam	22nd Mar-3-HQ	06/14/19
Ash, Leisher Claude	6th Tank Bn-C	01/23/77
Baumer, Warren M.	29th Mar-3-HQ	04/18/14
Bennett, Frederick J.	4th Mar-3-L	10/16/19
Busha, Lawrence A.	29th Mar-1-A	10/18/14
Olga Busha	wife of Lawrence Busha	12/22/19
Carlson, August J.	4th Mar-1-B	06/08/14
Chamberlin, James	6th Marine Division	05/13/18
DePaola, Angelo	29th Mar-2-D	09/29/16
Dimsdale, Walter	6th Marine Division	01/22/94
DiPentima, Vincent J.	6th Mar Div-HQ-HQ	10/26/19
Doering, Max	22nd Mar-HQ-MP	12/17/19
Drago, Joseph A.	22nd Mar-3-I	10/05/18
Fileff, Tony	22md Mar-3-I	06/02/17
Glassbrenner, Rosemarie	wife of Richard Glassbrenner	02/26/20
Goodrich, Rosina	wife of Forrest Goodrich	10/14/18
Harrison, Charles M.	22nd Mar-2-HQ	08/21/16
Heckt, Melvin D.	4th Mar-1-B	02/07/20
Hiott, Virginia	wife of Joseph Hiott	07/05/16
Hoenke, Charles	6th Service Bn	06/26/18
Kabik, Melvin	4th Mar-3-HQ	02/12/20
Kahle, John F.	4th Mar-HQ-HQ	08/06/14
Ketter, Lyndal A.	15th Mar-2-H&S	09/23/19
Koscielniak, Arthur D.	29th Mar-1-C	05/02/19
Krueger, Bernard	6th Marine Division	11/10/17
LaHaye, Jimmie D.	4th Mar-HQ-HQ	07/24/12
Lepant, Charles A.	22nd Mar-3-L	11/09/19
Laporte, Prudence	wife of Roslyn Laporte	05/05/12
Lospinuso, Rocco	29th Mar-2-E	02/27/20
Matta, Joe	6th Marine Division	11/2019
Meacham, June	wife of Charles Meacham	11/05/19
Meyer, George F.	4th Marines	06/11/18
Munoz, Anthony	4th Mar-2-G	10/18/00
Paice, Leon E.	22nd Mar-2-F	06/26/19
Ponce, Peter Sr.	22nd Mar, 1st Bn	03/03/20
Price, Thomas A.	22nd Mar-3-L	07/11/17
Reeves, William B.	29th Mar-3-G	03/06/17
Robertson, Norman E.	15th Mar-1-H&S	02/13/17
Rohrer, William Howard	6th Marine Division	12/20/19
Sakowicz, William J.	1st Dog Platoon	02/19/19
Seyfer, Marvin J.	4th Mar-2-G	09/27/15

Reporting Deaths

Deaths should be reported ASAP to:

Patty Payne, Membership Chair
(410) 978-2979
pjpayne1984@verizon.net

AND

Harry McKnight, Chaplain
(614) 866-3456
barbandht6321@aol.com

TAPS (cont.)

Simons, Irving R.	4th Mar-1-A	02/06/20
Stanifer, Helen	wife of Harry Stanifer	05/31/12
Stoufer, Robert E.	4th Mar-2-F	08/26/16
Titus, David W.	6th Medical Bn-A	04/05/19
Tremblay, Lola	wife of George Tremblay	04/14/17
Tripp, Kenneth T.	15th Mar-H&S	09/09/18
Waslasky, Stanley	6th Mar-HQ-HQ	01/06/15
York, Wallace E.	29th Mar-2-F	11/29/18

Son Captures Interviews with William Rohrer

My father, William Howard Rohrer (1923-2019), was a member of the Sixth Marine Division in charge of the unit responsible for Air-Ground Reconnaissance for the Sixth. Growing up I often interviewed Dad about his experiences. He was not always forthcoming, but over the years he related quite a bit.

Several years ago, my wife and I took Dad back to Okinawa on the 50th anniversary of the battle's end, where he met many Japanese war vets and their families. It was an incredibly moving experience for us all.

I have hours of interviews with Dad — including some in which he discusses his WW II experiences at length — preserved on DVDs.



William Howard Rohrer in uniform during WWII

After the war, Dad taught high school and raised a family. He wasn't much of a joiner and never participated in the Sixth Marine Division Association. I suspect he would have loved your reunions; maybe he will have some reunions now!

James Rohrer, Department of History
University of Nebraska Kearney
rohrerjr@unk.edu, (308) 210-2120

Grandson Pays Tribute to Thomas A. Price

I had the privilege of spending 27 years with my grandfather, Thomas Price (22nd Mar-3-L). He was a proud Marine until his last day. He flew the Marine Corps flag underneath Old Glory at his home in Norwalk, California that he and my grandmother built. He covered every vehicle he owned with bumper stickers that read "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."



Thomas A. Price with his wife Vivian, who according to her grandson, is still full of life at 93.

My grandfather attended reunions when he could, and he did his best to stay in touch with his brothers. In fact, he spoke daily with another Sixth Division Marine, Charles A. Lepant (DOD 11/9/19). You could always tell when he was on the phone with Chuck. His voice would brighten and his eyes would glimmer when they spoke. Surely there is no bond stronger than that forged between them all those years ago. Their lives and stories should be remembered, glorified, and honored forever.

My grandfather was, and forever will be, the standard to which I hold myself as a man. He is my hero.

AJ Bayus, Real Estate Agent/Property Manager
Newport Equity Capital Corporation
abayus@newportequity.com, (562) 458-8796

Melvin Heckt, Past President of US Marine Raiders Association

Melvin D. Hecht (4th Mar-1-B) of Golden Valley, MN passed away peacefully on February 7, 2020. Mel graduated from Grundy Center High School and the University of Iowa where he played on the football team. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa Law School in 1950 and practiced law well into his late 80s. Mel married his wife, "Dort", in 1948 and together they raised six children.



Melvin Heckt during WWII

Mel served in the 1st Marine Raider Bn and 1st Bn, 4th Marines, 6th Marine Division from 1943 to 1945. He fought on Guam and Okinawa and received the Bronze Star during the Battle of Okinawa. He was a Life Member of the Sixth Marine Division Association, a Life Member and past

President of the U.S. Marine Raiders Association, and a former board member of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. He was also a Life Member of the American Legion and VFW.

Mel worked tirelessly on behalf of children and adults with disabilities. He served on the Board of Directors for Mt. Olivet Rolling Acres and Friendship Ventures Foundation, which provides services to the disabled community. For decades, children with disabilities have enjoyed Camp Friendship in Annandale, MN, where Mel was one of the founders. He

served as President of the national ARC organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and he was a key member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities from 1973-75. Mel also did pioneering work in estate planning for parents of disabled children.

Rest in peace, Marine.



a more recent picture of Melvin Heckt

Fred Bennett: Marine, Raider, Fire Fighter and Sportsman

With the exception of his service in World War II, Fred Bennett (4th Mar-3-L) was a lifelong resident of West Allis, Wisconsin. He graduated from West Allis High School in 1941 where he lettered in basketball. That same year he joined the Marine Corps where he achieved the rank of Corporal as a machine gunner.



Fred Bennett with his son Jerry at the 2013 Reunion in Quantico

Fred was a veteran of the Marshall Islands and Okinawa campaigns, and he received battle stars on Majuro and Okinawa. After the war, he became a lifetime member of the Sixth Marine Division Association and the U.S. Marine Raiders Association. Fred was also a member of the Marine Corp League, Badger Detachment, and VFW Post 7485.

Fred joined the West Allis Fire Department in 1947 where he served his community as an Equipment Operator until 1985. He also worked at the Milwaukee Exposition Convention Center and Arena as a doorman and supervisor from 1978 until his retirement in 1997 at age 74.

Fred had many hobbies, including baseball, softball, hardball, horseshoes, speed skating, bowling, handball, bicycling, golf and gardening. Fred bicycled and golfed well into his 90s. It was through ballroom dancing that he met his late wife, Pauline "Polly" Chobot, at the Antlers Ballroom.

All those sports apparently kept Fred in terrific shape, which came in handy when a burglar broke into his home in December 2017. At age 95, Fred wrestled him to the ground! (See the Spring 2018 Striking Sixth [available online] for the full story.)

Bicycling, golfing, and wrestling burglars in your 90's? We'd say Fred is a prime candidate to guard the gates of heaven!

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

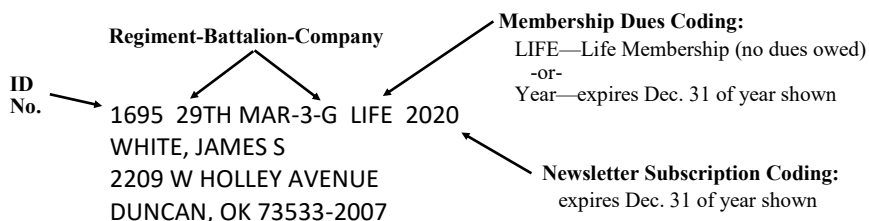
E-mail: pipayne1984@verizon.net Phone: (410) 978-2979

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.



Bivouac of the Dead

by Theodore O'Hara

*Penned in 1847, Bivouac of the Dead was written to commemorate American dead at the Battle of Buena Vista in the Mexican-American War. Its author, Theodore O'Hara, was a journalist, poet, and officer in the US Army during the war. After the Civil War, the poem became even more popular as the nation coped with its wartime losses. Although O'Hara fought for the Confederacy, his poem became particularly connected with the mourning of Union dead. Verses from the poem were placed on markers in cemeteries and battlefields across the country, including **Fredericksburg National Cemetery**. Lines from the poem can be found on the gate to Arlington National Cemetery, as well as on placards throughout the cemetery.*

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on Life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.
On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents to spread,
And glory guards, with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.

No rumor of the foe's advance
Now swells upon the wind;
Nor troubled thought at midnight haunts
Of loved ones left behind;
No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dream alarms;
No braying horn nor screaming fife
At dawn shall call to arms.

Their shivered swords are red with rust,
Their plumed heads are bowed,
Their haughty banner, trailed in dust,
Is now their martial shroud.
And plenteous funeral tears have washed
The red stains from each brow,
And the proud forms, by battle gashed
Are free from anguish now.

The neighing troop, the flashing blade,
The bugle's stirring blast,
The charge, the dreadful cannonade,
The din and shout are past;
Nor war's wild note, nor glory's peal,
Shall thrill with fierce delight
Those breasts that never more may feel
The rapture of the fight.

Like the fierce northern hurricane
That sweeps the great plateau,
Flushed with the triumph yet to gain,
Came down the serried foe,
Who heard the thunder of the fray
Break o'er the field beneath,
Knew well the watchword of that day
Was "Victory or death."

Long has the doubtful conflict raged
O'er all that stricken plain,
For never fiercer fight had waged
The vengeful blood of Spain;
And still the storm of battle blew,
Still swelled the gory tide;
Not long our stout old chieftain knew,
Such odds his strength could bide.

'Twas in that hour his stern command
Called to a martyr's grave
The flower of his beloved land,
The nation's flag to save.
By rivers of their fathers' gore
His first-born laurels grew,
And well he deemed the sons would pour
Their lives for glory too.

For many a norther's breath has swept
O'er Angostura's plain—
And long the pitying sky has wept
Above the molding slain.
The raven's scream, or eagle's flight,
Or shepherd's pensive lay,
Alone awakes each sullen height
That frowned o'er that dread fray.

Sons of the Dark and Bloody Ground,
Ye must not slumber there,
Where stranger steps and tongues resound
Along the heedless air.
Your own proud land's heroic soil
Shall be your fitter grave;
She claims from War his richest spoil—
The ashes of her brave.

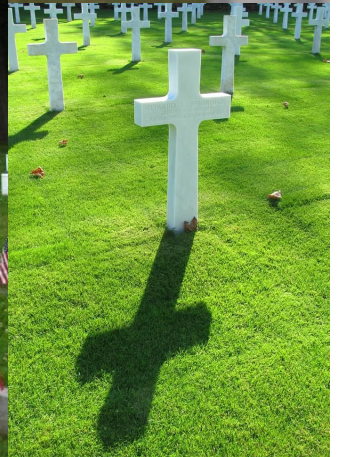
Thus 'neath their parent turf they rest,
Far from the gory field,
Borne to a Spartan mother's breast
On many a bloody shield;
The sunshine of their native sky
Smiles sadly on them here,
And kindred eyes and hearts watch by
The heroes' sepulcher.

Rest on embalmed and sainted dead!
Dear as the blood ye gave,
No impious footstep shall here tread
The herbage of your grave;
Nor shall your glory be forgot
While Fame her record keeps,
Or Honor points the hallowed spot
Where Valor proudly sleeps.

Yon marble minstrel's voiceless stone
In deathless song shall tell,
When many a vanquished age has flown,
The story how ye fell;
Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter's blight,
Nor Time's remorseless doom,
Shall dim one ray of glory's light
That gilds your deathless tomb.



Remember...Memorial Day 2020



clockwise from top: American Military Cemetery, Luxembourg; Arlington National Cemetery; Aisne-Marne Military Cemetery, Belleau Wood; Normandy American Cemetery; Fredericksburg National Cemetery; National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Hawaii

Sixth Marine Division Association

439 Chalfonte Drive, Catonsville, MD 21228



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

Striking Sixth Newsletter

Spring 2020

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Reunion 2020 — Fredericksburg, Virginia

Holiday Inn Fredericksburg Conference Center

Last fall we told you we would be staying at the Wingate by Wyndham. We're pleased to report the hotel was purchased by Holiday Inn and rechristened the Fredericksburg Conference Center. And it's been completely renovated!



**We hope to see you
at the 50th and Final
Reunion of the
Sixth Marine
Division Association!**

September 22-27

see pages 10-14 for all the info