

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



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www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2021

New Publication Date for Mosquito Bowl Book

LOOK FOR IT AROUND FATHER'S DAY 2022!



Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Friday Night Lights*, Buzz Bissinger at the fabulous 2018 Reunion in Philadelphia that he hosted. The man is multi-talented!

Originally planned for a 2021 release, Buzz Bissinger's new book about the Sixth has been delayed — like everything else — by the pandemic. HarperCollins is now planning to make it the lead book on their spring 2022 list, and they have very high hopes for it!

The book tells the story of the Mosquito Bowl, a football game played between the 4th and 29th Regiments of the Sixth Marine Division on Guadalcanal on Christmas Eve 1944. Twelve of the men in that game gave their lives for their country just a few months later in the battle for Okinawa.

The book is a stirring tale of football and heroism and honor — just what you would expect from a book about Sixth Division Marines.

Buzz hopes to visit several archives when they reopen, and he also plans to go to Okinawa. He is still interested in hearing from vets and/or their families. He is particularly interested in any letters they may have. You can contact Buzz by phone or email:

Buzzy4@gmail.com, 215-290-5370



Mosquito Bowl teammates George Murphy, Dave Mears & Walter Bergman

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The Last Bottle: Mystery Solved!



In the Fall 2020 issue of the *Striking Sixth*, Watson Crumbie (29th Mar-1-C) wrote about a bottle of Scotch whiskey that was auctioned off at the reunion each year. The highest bidder would keep the bottle until the next reunion. Proceeds from the auctions were donated to a scholarship fund at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI),

alma mater of General Lemuel Shepherd Jr., Commanding General of the Sixth Marine Division on Okinawa. The last two surviving members of the Division were to get together and celebrate with a final toast from the bottle. One year, there was no bottle at the reunion and no one could remember who had it. Watson had heard a rumor that the bottle had been donated to the VMI Museum, but since it was closed due to Covid, he could not confirm this.

Thanks to Watson's persistence, he has since discovered that the bottle is indeed at VMI, where Colonel Keith Gibson, Director of the VMI Museum System, reported they are honored to be its caretaker. With the help of Colonel Gibson, past issues of the *Striking Sixth*, and an article in *The Oregonian* newspaper from 2008, we have been able to fill in some of the missing history.

On November 10, 1989, Sixth Division Marines Len Cotton, Ken Davis, and Jack Hoag visited General Shepherd. They brought a bottle of champagne, a German chocolate cake, and a bottle of Chivas Regal to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday. At the end of the evening, the General insisted the Marines take the bottle of Scotch and "give the boys a

drink" at the next reunion. Being the creative and enterprising men that they were, they decided to auction the bottle each year with the proceeds going to VMI.

Jack Hoag crafted an oak box for what became known as the Last Man's Bottle. A plaque on the case identifies the bottle as "The property of the Sixth Marine Division Association by order of General L. C. Shepherd, USMC." In February 1990, Jack took the bottle in its case to General Shepherd on his 94th (and last) birthday and explained the plans for the auction and VMI donations. General Shepherd's response was, "You boys are too kind."

At the reunion later that year, the first auction was held and James Chaisson submitted the winning bid. A plaque on the side of the oak case lists the names of all of the bottle's caretakers from 1989 to 2005 when Reese Anderson became the final Sixth Division Marine custodian of the bottle.

On April 1, 2008, *The Oregonian* ran a story about Reese and the bottle. His winning bid was \$500, which he got from his daughter-in-law who won it playing poker. She told him to use the money to bring the bottle home. Although the article says Reese won the bottle at the reunion in Las Vegas in 2007, that is not correct. He



Reese Anderson, 2008

(continued on next page)

The Last Bottle: Mystery Solved!

(continued from prior page)

won it in 2005 as shown on bottle, which is when the reunion was held in Las Vegas. (The 2007 reunion was in Norfolk.) Since Reese still held the bottle when the article was written in April 2008, he must not have attended the 2006 and



Claud Wilkins bought the "Last Bottle" for the second year in a row.

triple winner Claud Wilkins in 2000; he also won in 1994 and 1999

2007 reunions. However, the article says he was planning to attend the reunion in Oklahoma City in September 2008, which he had just learned was going to be the last Sixth Division reunion.

We are guessing he got this information from the

Winter 2007 *Striking Sixth*, which mentions some discussion of disbanding the Association and holding the final reunion in 2008. However, this never came to a vote.

Being the conscientious caretaker of the bottle that he was, Reese resolved to take it to Oklahoma City to give his fellow Marines one final chance to see it. Concerned that the bottle would get lost in the dissolution of the Association, he determined the best solution was to donate it to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico. He sought the help of the commanding officer of the Marine Corps Recruiting Office in Portland, Oregon who agreed to help. Eventually, they reached the head of curatorial services at the National Museum of the Marine Corps who advised Reese to make a formal request to the museum after the fall reunion.

What happened next is not clear. We suspect the National Museum of the Marine Corps did not accept the bottle and so it was offered to VMI. It would have been wonderful if the bottle had continued to be auctioned – and generate donations – at future reunions; there have been 14 since 2005! And we love the idea of the last two Sixth Division Marines toasting their buddies. Nevertheless, we are happy the bottle has a found a good home at General Shepherd's alma mater.

Last Bottle Caretakers

The plaque on the side of the bottle lists the following names and dates. The first auction was in 1990.

L. Cotton	11/06/89
Gen L. C. Shepherd	11/10/89
K. Davis	11/11/89
J. Hoag	12/05/89
J. J. Chaisson	09/01/90
Bob Davis	09/28/91
Lou Lang	08/29/92
Cliff Gilbert	09/29/93
Claud Wilkins	09/24/94
Paul E. Ulrich	08/28/95
Richard L. Fox	09/07/96
Richard A. Whitaker	08/30/97
James L. Day	09/19/98
Claud Wilkins	09/03/99
Claud Wilkins	11/16/99*
Paul E. Ulrich	09/10/01
Orwald B. Aasland	09/14/02
Howard C. Terry	10/02/04
Reese Anderson	09/29/05

**This is apparently an error. It should be Sept. 2000.*

Marine Sergeant Stationed Where Father Served in World War II

from Stars and Stripes, June 27, 2005

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa — Every time Marine 1st Sgt. Scott Smith drives to his office at the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, he crosses paths with family history.

When Smith was growing up in Falls Creek, Pa., he said his father, Robert Smith Jr. [29th Mar-1-B], would tell him stories of the Battle of Okinawa. The elder Smith was a private assigned as a flamethrower within the 6th Marine Division. He landed near Torii Station on April 1, 1945 — his 20th birthday.

“It was never about the blood and guts,” Smith said. “It was always funny stories.”

Smith, whose father died two years ago, said one of his favorite stories is about the last meal his father ate before landing on the island. He said the meal was so good, he went for seconds, but the sailor serving food turned him away.

As Pvt. Smith walked away dejected, his platoon sergeant asked him what happened. Upon hearing his Marine was denied extra chow, the platoon sergeant crisply corrected the sailor.

“Now look here, this might be this Marine’s last meal, so you are gonna give him what he wants and as much as he wants, do you understand me?” recalls Smith of his father talking about the platoon sergeant.

Another favorite tale also involves the platoon sergeant. As the unit was digging in at night-

fall the day they landed on Okinawa, an airplane was heard approaching. The unit was near a Japanese airfield and a Zero fighter plane was coming in for a landing.

As the plane flew over the troops making fighting holes, the platoon sergeant picked up his Thompson submachine gun and fired several bursts at the fighter. Smith’s father said the troops all laughed at the sergeant — until the engine stopped and the plane crashed.

“Then the platoon sergeant hollered and said ‘What the hell are you looking at? Get back to digging,’” Smith recalled his father

saying. “For 30-plus years now, that story has stuck with me, and as a junior troop, I understood from the actions of my staff NCOs and officers that getting the job done and taking care of us was all that really mattered. This story of my father is just one example of what has made the Marine Corps the unique organization that it is today.”

Smith said his father was drafted into the Navy, but when he was in-processing in late 1944, a Marine said the Corps needed volunteers to be engineers. His father volunteered and was on a train to San Diego for boot camp. After graduation, he went to

(continued on next page)



Today, Scott Smith (pictured above in 2005) is a retired Marine SgtMaj teaching High School MCJROTC. He’s had several encounters with the Sixth Division:

- In the summer of 1985, MGen Day had Scott fly down from Iwakuni Japan to Okinawa for the 40th Anniversary of the battle. His mother and father were part of the Sixth Marine Division Tour Group.

- He was in the Marine Color Guard in Peabody, MA when the Sixth Marine Division Association had a reunion possibly in 1990.
- He met his Dad's Company Commander Capt Lyle "Spook" Specth or Spect at MCRD San Diego in 1993 when he was a Drill Instructor.
- In 1995, the Association had their reunion San Diego. Scott was one of the "Tour Guide" Drill Instructors who spent several days with the group.
- He spoke at the 2007 reunion held in Norfolk, VA.

Scott’s nephew (his father Robert’s grandson) is currently an active duty Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. MSgt Rick Smith served 3 years on Okinawa and is well versed in the history of the 6th Marine Division.

Marine Sergeant

(continued from prior page)

Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he was told he was going to be a Browning automatic rifle gunner.

During training for the Battle of Okinawa on Guadalcanal, flamethrowers were needed, and Smith's father was chosen. Smith said his father was the only original flamethrower in his battalion that left Okinawa alive.

"He never even got wounded," Smith said. "The closest was bullets glancing off his tanks from his fellow Marines providing cover fire."

Smith said being stationed on Okinawa helps him feel close to his father. "The biggest thing to me is when I come to work every day and when I drive home," he said. "I think, 'Hey, my dad probably walked through those hills.'"

Donations - Thank You!

Newsletter Fund

John Albanese

Anita, Melinda & Lisa Benedetti —
in memory of Harry Grover

Joe Kite

Craig A. Larson

Robert Pringle

General Operating Fund

Gail Engler

Mary R. Jacot

Joe Kite

Jonathan Lynch

Lester E. Penny

Edward Whalen

Website Fund

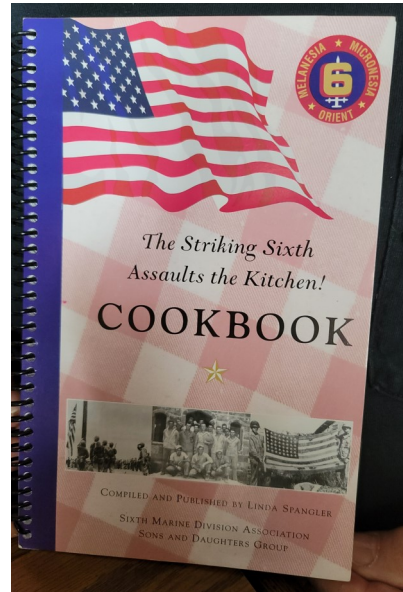
Connie Houseweart

Joe Kite

Spring 2021

Good Old-Fashioned Cooking and Great Memories Are a Recipe for Success

**VINTAGE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION COOKBOOKS NOW ON SALE:
JUST \$20 INCLUDING FREE SHIPPING!**



You never know what you're going to find when you clean out your garage. When lineal descendant Linda Spangler took up the task last fall, she came across a real treasure trove — vintage cookbooks filled with recipes from Sixth Division Marines and their families! Recipes for good old fashioned American cooking from the years after World War II. You won't find kale or miso or jicama among the ingredients. But you will find pictures, stories and memories from the war years. It's like taking a trip back in time.

Linda compiled the cookbook back in 2005 as a fundraiser for the Association. Once

again, she has offered to put them up for sale to raise money for the Association. Thank you, Linda!

This is your chance to try Frank's Fabulous Meatloaf from the late Association Chaplain Rev. Frank Mack. Or perhaps you'd like to try the late Service Officer Dick Roberts' Skillet Biscuits.

Order your cookbook today before they are gone forever!

How to Get the Cookbooks

Send a check for \$20 made payable to Sixth Marine Division Assn. to:

Connie Houseweart
258 Sechler Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

Be sure to provide the name and address where she should send the cookbook. Hint: The cookbook would make a nice gift!

Remember — proceeds from your purchase will be used to fund our newsletter and website.

Please direct any questions to Connie at: (570) 433-4402 or almostnuts@comcast.net.

2021 Reunion

Field Trips

First and foremost, we want this reunion to be a time for socializing, so we are planning just two field trips — a trolley tour of Fredericksburg on Wednesday and a bus trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Thursday. (See the spring 2020 newsletter on our website for more details. It's under "6th Div Assn" in the red bar.)

The museum is currently closed, but we are optimistic it will be open before September. The trolley tours are not running right now, but they are planning to resume operation in May.

Please note: **If you sign up for a field trip that ends up being canceled, we will refund your money.**

Airport Transportation



Bob and Jane McCalmont have graciously offered to provide transportation to and from the airport for Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows. With multiple airports a good distance from the hotel, this seems like a tall order. But Bob tells us he did transportation planning operations all over the world when he was in the Army. This included arranging airlift, sealift, rail, and convoy for hundreds of troops and cargo everyday. So he is the man for the job!

Given the challenging logistics, we request that you only ask for Bob and Jane's assistance if you are **not** traveling with younger family members.

Given the challenging logistics, we request that you only ask for Bob and Jane's assistance if you are **not** traveling with younger family members.



Annual Meeting Topics

Since this is our last reunion, it will also be our last Annual Meeting. We will need to vote on the future of the Association. The following proposals will be brought to a vote:

- 1) Apply any funds remaining after the 2021 reunion to publishing the newsletter and maintaining the website.
- 2) Continue the newsletter as long as we have Sixth Division Marine subscribers and the money to pay for it. Thereafter, we will use the website for building awareness of the Sixth Marine Division.
- 3) Stop soliciting memberships and dissolve the Association effective when our funds run out.

Is the Reunion Definitely a Go?

With vaccinations underway, we are optimistic. **We plan to make the final GO/NO GO decision in August.** Look for the final decision on our website by August 14. You can also call Sharon Woodhouse at (503) 799-4455 for an update.

Please note that **if we have to cancel, we will refund every penny you have sent us.** Also, the hotel does not require a deposit, and reservations can be cancelled without penalty up until the *day before* your arrival date.

We are hoping to get corporate donations to cover some of the costs of the reunion. If you work for or have contacts at a corporation that might be interested in this opportunity, please ask them! Then contact Connie Houseweart, 570-433-4402.

2021 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.

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 *(This rate is only available by phone with code MD6 if reserved by August 14. Cheaper rates may be available online but they come with more restrictions.)*

Amenities

- newly renovated
- refrigerator, microwave, Keurig 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. Daily happy hour 5:00-7:00.

Note: \$5 breakfast vouchers will be provided to Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows.

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



king 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, except for Sixth Division veterans and widows — see page 6. 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 14**

Questions???

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

2021 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 available in the hotel restaurant each morning, and \$5 vouchers will be provided to Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows.

Tuesday, September 14

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 15

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 16

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** **\$20.00**
(lunch on your own at the museum)

Friday, September 17

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 18

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** **\$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.**

2021 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 at the address on the reverse side
by August 14.

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)

**For Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows who are flying
with no younger family members to assist you:**

Do you want us to pick you up at the airport? _____

Please provide your airline, flight # and arrival date and time:

Please provide your airline, flight # and departure date and time for your flight home:

Cell phone # while traveling: (____) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

Contact Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete the reverse side

2021 Reunion — Registration Form (page 2)

Registration Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows -- FREE # _____ (for planning)
 All others -- \$25 per person # attending _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Tuesday, September 14

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

Wednesday, September 15

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

Thursday, September 16

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

Friday, September 17

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

Saturday, September 18

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 and their wives/significant others and widows***

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

Make check payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn.

Please mail completed form with your check by August 14 to:

Sharon Woodhouse
 12598 SW Dickson Street
 Tigard, OR 97224

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

Please bring any pictures or mementos you have from old reunions. We'd love to see them!

French Reenactors Pay Tribute to the Sixth Marine Division

Last fall, Alan Chambaud emailed Association President Connie Housewart from France. Alan is Vice President of The Leathernecks Group, a newly-formed French living history organization that focuses on World War II Marines. They were planning on hosting a reenactment of the Sixth Marine Division's fight for Sugar Loaf Hill and they were seeking some expert assistance. Connie referred Alan to Bob McGowan who referred him to Neal McCallum, who was not only on Okinawa, but has an amazing memory and knowledge of history.

Sadly, Covid-19 forced The Leathernecks Group to cancel the event, but that didn't stop them from honoring the Sixth Division. Alan sent Bob a picture of him with two of his friends in Sixth Marine Division dress greens. They are holding pictures of 1st Lt Charles E. Behan and Neal.



Alan Chambaud and friends honor the Sixth Marine Division in France

Walter Ruckle

To whom it may concern:

I am looking for information about my late grandfather, Walter F. Ruckle who was in the 6th Marine Division during World War II. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and after the war he relocated to Chicago, Illinois. He stayed in the Marine Corps Reserves and was a Sergeant Major when he retired.



Walter Ruckle's jacket

Please contact me at the email address below if you have any information about his service.

Thank you ,
Kristopher J Anderson
jra4da_usa@yahoo.com



Happy Anniversary!

Along with newsletter dues, Betty Nuckols included a note saying she and her husband, Jack (22nd Mar-3-K), have been married for 74 years! Congratulations!!!

Thank You to Lakes Marketing and Print!

Last fall, the Executive Board elected to eliminate the color pages in the newsletter to save money. So it was quite a surprise to see full color on the first and last two pages of the fall 2020 newsletter. Rick Ayers, Owner and President of Lakes Marketing and Print donated the color pages at a significant cost to his firm. Rick said it was his way of saying, "Thank you to our veterans who wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America, for an amount up to and including their life."

Thank you, Rick, and thank you, Lakes Marketing and Print for your generous donation!

Editor's Note: Lakes Marketing and Print is a second generation family-owned firm that has been helping clients like us since 1950. They are located in Iowa (that's where their Midwest work ethic comes from), but they do business with people and companies all over the country thanks to the miracle of technology.

Lakes Marketing and Print is extremely helpful and easy to work with, and they produce a quality product. They also support the community. Last year they partnered with several people who have 3D printers to make face shields for medical staff on the front lines of the pandemic.

We highly recommend them.

For more information, check out their website: <https://lakesprint.com>. Or contact Rick directly at:

rick@lakesprint.com
712-336-3564



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6th Medical Battalion	Vacant
6th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6th Tank Battalion	Vacant
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6th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6th Recon Company	Vacant
6th JASCO	George McAfee
1st Amphibs	Vacant

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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.

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

**Be sure to check
www.sixthmarinedivision.com
for updates about the reunion**

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



Here is a little story:

My companion for foxhole living was John Wells. One day we watched a

tank with a flamethrower blast into caves and then a sugar cane field. John said, "Hey Mac, look at this." Two young Okinawa children were coming towards us with their hands up. A boy and girl about five or six. We told them to stop and turn around to make sure they were not carrying grenades.

We motioned for them to come into our foxhole where it was safer. They were both dirty with ragged clothes. Just then the Mess Sgt came by and tossed some K rations into our foxhole. They were labeled breakfast, lunch and dinner. The dinners were corned pork loaf. I said to John, "Let's clean these kids up and we can see if they might like some corned pork loaf." We cleaned them with our handkerchiefs and water from our canteens. The girl kept looking hard at my canteen, so I gave it to her and she drained it.

As it began to get dark, we sent them — with several boxes of corned pork loaf — behind the lines with other refugees.

Barb and I just got our second vaccine shot. Looking forward to the reunion.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

Message from the President



How time flies! I am telling you all, right? I can remember for years after my father found all of you, how he talked about you and just

couldn't wait for the next edition of the newsletter to come in the mail.

In 2006, my father died and I promised from that day forward I would attend the reunions in honor of him.

Through the years attending the reunions, I jumped in where needed. Little did I know I was being noticed by my first mentor, Marty Essex. He asked if I would be interested in promoting the Sons and Daughters (that is what we were called back then) and becoming a part of the "older group." In 2010, the Sons and Daughters were finally allowed to become a part of this mighty organization.

Marty died and I continued his (our) work. My mission has always been to preserve the memory and legacy of the Sixth Marine Division.

I got the surprise of my life at the Cleveland reunion in 2011. The Board (specifically Ed Marsalek) asked me if I would take Marty's place on the Board. Of course I said YES! That very same day, Ed and Sam Petriello came to me and said they didn't want me to do that job. Talk about disappointment! Then

they asked if I would be the President Elect. I think I melted through the floor. Long story short, I have been involved in this group, either as President Elect or President for almost 10 years.

I would not trade this experience for anything in this world. I have thought of all the vets of the Sixth Marine Division as my adoptive Dads. As long as you are alive and we can preserve the legacy and your memory, I shall have a piece of my father forever.

I have met so many wonderful people along the way: Harry McKnight, Neal McCallum, Pauline Roberts (Richard), Delores Bertram (Harry), and D C Rigby just to name a few. I also have many adopted brothers and sisters spread across this great country: Sharon Woodhouse, Buzz Bissinger, Carroll and Bob McGowan, the Benedetti sisters (Anita, Melinda, Lisa), Rick Willauer, Jim Rigby and Mary Brauer to name a few. There are many many more, but I don't think there is enough room in the newsletter to list them.

On that note, I thank you all for all of the memories you have given me. I shall cherish them forever. Please be safe. Stay healthy. And know we are trying our best to give you a reunion this year. Keep fingers and toes crossed!

~Connie



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, Thelma	wife of Sam Adams	11/14/19
Baird, John	6th Mar Div-HQ-Signal	11/15/20
Bangert, Marion	wife of Joseph Bangert Sr.	08/23/20
Bard, Bennett R.	29th Mar-2-D	12/06/20
Bateson, Robert	29th Mar-Wpns	07/05/20
Brothers, Karl	22nd Mar-3-L/4th Mar-3-L	12/08/20
Clemente, Joseph Jr.	6th Mar Div-HQ-Wire	08/25/20
Danzig, Morris J.	22nd Mar-1-C (Corpsman)	03/07/21
Gianvito, Joseph A.	15th Mar-4-H&S	11/18/20
Hardacker, David R.	6th Motor Trans Bn-H&S	02/20/20
Harris, Donald Jr.	4th Mar-1-B	11/18/20
Honeyager, Dean	29th Mar-2-E	03/13/21
Houston, Robert	22nd Mar-Wpns	11/13/20
Johnston, Robert N.	6th Marine Division	12/28/20
Lusty, Edward J.	22nd Mar-Wpns	12/25/09
McCulloch, John	22nd Mar-2-HQ	12/31/20
Michael, Leon B.	6th Marine Division	12/26/20
Nebiolo, Eugene	29th Mar-3-H	04/16/20
Peebles, James	29th Mar-3-I	08/04/20
Pickering, Roy Lee	22nd Mar-1-B	12/16/20
Powers, Richard J.	29th Mar-2-E	12/30/20
Ruediger, Ruth	wife of Leonard Ruediger	05/21/19
Sanner, Minnie Belle	wife of William Sanner	12/30/20
Setzer, Charles W.	29th Mar-3-H	12/10/20
Sorensen, Phillip J.	6th Jasco	09/04/16
Stephens, Harold P.	29th Mar-2-F	01/2021
Willborn, Bernard J.	6th Jasco	07/18/18
Zappone, Marie	wife of James D. Zappone	01/14/19

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

From the Editor



Once again we are planning a reunion during a worldwide pandemic. And once again, we don't have a crystal ball — drat! But we have something we didn't have last

year at this time — vaccines! And that gives us hope.

As we are an older group, most of us are high on the priority list for getting the vaccine. Even if you are younger or still struggling to get an appointment, it sounds like everyone who wants the vaccine will have gotten it

by the time September rolls around. And we hope case counts continue to decline as they have recently.

God willing, we will enjoy each other's company in Fredericksburg this fall!

~Carroll McGowan

Cost of Freedom

by Harry M. Stanifer (6th Engineer Bn-C), 2013

There is a cost to freedom as some already know.
Some were able to stay, while others have had to go
To fight our many battles that've kept our country free.
Over these many centuries, they did it for you and me.

There is a cost to freedom as some already know.
Some young men have died never having a chance to grow.
They are buried in the sea or in a foreign land.
Some were brought home, and now rest where white crosses stand.

There is a cost to freedom as some already know.
Those whose limbs were lost and in wheelchairs going to and fro.
Some whose lives were shattered by shells and bombs' loud blast,
And cannot get the mind to work right, because of the past.

There is a cost to freedom as some already know.
It is the mother's anguish that she tries not to show.
Or the wife with little children now home all alone
Waiting for a word from him by letter or by phone.

There is a cost to freedom as some already know.
We pray to God for our safety and that peaceful breezes blow.
As we salute those brave men and women while singing our patriotic songs,
Our flag is carried to the fray bringing freedom and righting wrongs.



Sixth Marine Division Association

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Striking Sixth Newsletter

Spring 2021

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Reunion 2021 — It's Still On!

FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA ~ SEPTEMBER 14-19, 2021

History Surrounds Fredericksburg!

Extend your stay with visits to:

Washington D.C — 50 miles

Arlington, VA — 48 miles

Mount Vernon, VA — 38 miles

Richmond, VA — 60 miles

Chancellorsville, VA — 13 miles

Manassas, VA — 36 miles

Williamsburg, VA — 104 miles

Jamestown, VA — 111 miles

Yorktown, VA — 116 miles

**See pages 6-10 for more
reunion information**



above: Washington D.C.
top right: Williamsburg, VA
bottom right: Yorktown, VA

