

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



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Spring 2007

### President Essex Weighs In On Directory Stall

By President Marty Essex

The Directory situation has reached the ridiculous stage. Requested by the membership at the 2005 Reunion due to a series of large contributions, eventually amounting to about \$3,000, a \$4,500 budget was approved. At least \$2,000 of the donations were asked to be returned if the Directory failed to materialize.

Joe Singleton and Tom Terpinas were named to produce it in time for distribution in the fall of 2006.

While they were planning and seeking a worthy printer, inflation sneaked in; the cost went over budget. A request for additional funds was made to the board at the 2006 annual meeting by President Harold (Pete) Howell and approved by board and membership for \$3,000 more, making a total budget of \$7,500. That was thought to be enough.

These facts were all reported in our Striking Sixth newsletter in the spring edition of 2006 on Pages 7 and 11 and in the winter edition of the same year, on Page 5. The 2006 Meeting minutes in this issue report the same findings. The Directory budget stands at \$7,500. That is indisputable.

Nevertheless, the drama moves on. Costs continued to escalate. More money was needed. The latest bids were for somewhat less than \$10,500. I elected to poll the board for the additional money and some left over just in case. After seven approvals, I stopped and informed Singleton that he and Terpinas could have the money, as that was a majority of the executive committee.

Singleton requested two checks amounting to a little over \$8,000 to the printer, with more to come, from our treasurer Joseph McConville, who refused to write the checks. Asked why by Singleton, McConville said, he couldn't because it would be a violation of the bylaws. He added, "I am totally opposed to the Directory." He said the 2003 Directory is still suitable.

I didn't dream that the board did not have the authority to make appropriations between

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### NEW 6TH DIVISION TRADITION?



Tom McKinney, F-2-4, second from left, had been "kicking around" the idea of having a new tradition to start this year. He proposed an informal gathering at Quantico to visit and see the new museum and to hold a service at the 6th Division Memorial. The get-together was scheduled for March 30 and April 1, 2007, purpose to "more or less remember our adventure on April 1, 1945." Some of the attendees are shown here at the Memorial. From left, Bill Maskal, McKinney, Carl Sproatt, Harold (Pete) Howell, Andy Sinatra, Rich Roberts, Sam Petriello, Tom Terpinas and Ed Debnam.

### Present-Day Marines Aiding Reunion

By Joe Singleton

The Norfolk Reunion, scheduled for Oct. 9-14, is rolling along on all fronts, reports John Foley, K-3-4, in the combined role of Reunion site chairman and Reunion chairman. The Radisson Norfolk will be the host hotel. The Virginia city's Downtown will provide the backdrop.

The Reunion begins with Tuesday registration and ends Sunday.

John has enlisted the United States Marine Corps in the person of Col. Michael Santacroce, a pilot and former commander of VMF 214, to help out. Guadalcanal veterans will recall Gregory (Pappy) Boyington's Black Sheep squadron. Of course, Santacroce's tour was of more recent vintage.

It was through Santacroce's efforts that John was able to obtain permission for the Memorial Service to be held on

the Battleship USS Wisconsin, which is stationed at Norfolk in retirement. Other proposed plans, not yet finalized, include a display of Operation Iceberg Operation Plan No. 1-45, 10 Feb., 1945, (the master plan for the invasion of Okinawa), color guard for the Memorial Service and the banquet and a tentative offer of transportation to the Wisconsin.

All of the usual Reunion events will be held, as noted on the forms, Pages 4 and 5. A buffet luncheon cruise has been planned for Wednesday. Other activities are still on hold, pending possible events planned by the Santacroce Marines. There is a possibility of touring Okinawa Hall, followed by a luncheon on the Naval Base at Club Atlantis. Not everything could be finalized for this issue. Complete plans will be available in the Summer Edition.

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SIXTH MARINE DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION  
2006-2007  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ELECTED OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT**

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*Ed Marsalek*

beloved Sixth was and is unique—in that it was formed overseas and deactivated overseas. For this reason, anyone who served or was attached to the Sixth earned the title of combat Marine. Reflect on this for a moment

The “Striking Sixth” newsletter is an official publication of the Sixth Marine Division Association, 107 Grand Central Ave., PO Box 484, Lavalette, NJ 08735 and is published for members of the Association. “This is not a mailing address.”

Subscription rate is \$10.00 per calendar year. Membership applications, dues, donations, address or record changes should be mailed to Florence R. Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011. Make checks payable to Sixth Marine Division Assn., Inc.

Suggestions are welcome. Submissions should be sent to the editor, Joe Singleton, 251 S Green Valley Pkwy #4813 Henderson, NV 89012, phone: (512) 695-4295, email: joes104183@aol.com

**Unit Directors**

Walter Heuer	4 <sup>th</sup> Marines
James McWalters	15 <sup>th</sup> Marines
Charles Staten	22 <sup>nd</sup> Marines
Henry B. Kemp	29 <sup>th</sup> Marines
Vince Matthews	6 <sup>th</sup> Mtr. Trns. Bn.
Jack Rice	6 <sup>th</sup> Med. Bn.
Leonard Israel	6 <sup>th</sup> Engr. Bn.
Sal Mistr.etta	6 <sup>th</sup> Tank Bn.
Louis Spillone	6 <sup>th</sup> Pioneer Bn.
Augie LePore	6 <sup>th</sup> Hq. Bn.
Fred Westphal	6 <sup>th</sup> Recon. Co.
Dick Roberts	6 <sup>th</sup> JASCO
George Tremblay	1 <sup>st</sup> Amphibs

**Directory Committee**

Joe Singleton, Chairman  
Tom Terpinas

**Membership Manager**

Florence Dornan

## Next President Stresses Unity

My Brothers—Sixth Marine Division Comrades, I take exceptional pride in addressing you as such because as you well know, our

whether you were a “hold high the torch” Fourth, double deuce; the reliable 29th, 15th Artillery or attached unit, the short but brilliant history of the Striking Sixth was a team effort.

I bring this point in support of President Essex’s comment in the 2006 winter edition of the Striking Sixth alluding to estrangement of some of our units that hold separate reunions. I am supporting that we put aside all differences, which may have previously arisen, and that we work together as a team to assure that the limited future reunions are successful for all units and all members.

Reverend Mack, I am sure knows the beautiful song “Let There Be Peace”—Let there be peace and let it begin with ME—are part of the song. The ME in the song actually means YOU. To those of you whom I have had the privilege and joy of seeing at other Reunions, I am asking that you spread the word that together we can stand tall, divided we fall.

I also take this opportunity to thank each of you for giving me the privilege of serving as your President-elect. I accept this honor with humility in that while I have had numerous titles bestowed upon me during my career, both appointive and elective, I was always true to our beloved Marine Corps hymn, proudest to claim the title of United States Marine. I did not think of or expect to ever top that, but your kind actions of electing me to the office of president-elect of the Sixth Marine Division Assn. did that. For me it just can’t get any better than that.

Once again thank you, and I ask for your support and help in continuing to further our goals as set out in the Charter and the by-laws of our association.

Peace be with you and your loved ones. See you in Norfolk.

Semper Fi, Ed Marsalek

## Association Bylaws-Amendments-1-9-07

Article V—Members and Dues

A Strike out “five” and insert six

A 2 Insert a new 2—Regular Associate Members Persons who are lineal descendants of Regular Members in good standing of the Association, or of deceased members and who at the time of their deaths were members in good standing of the Association, are eligible for Regular Associate membership. Lineal descendants include the following: Lineal descendants of Regular Members as described above who are presently serving in the U.S. armed forces or who have served in the U.S. armed forces are eligible for Regular Associate membership. Lineal descendants as described above shall be entitled to hold office and vote at all meetings of the Association.

Renumber the former 2 to read Associate Members

Renumber 3 to 4 Life Members

Renumber 4 to 5 Honorary Members

Renumber 5 to 6 Friends of the Association, USMC Aviation Center, Historical Foundation are friends of Regular Members

D Dues Amend to combine 1 and 2 to read

1 All dues are payable in advance and shall be due and payable on January 1 of each year

Number 3 becomes 2

2 c Amend by striking out and inserting a new 2 c to read as follows A notice in the newsletter that dues are due and payable shall be stated in the newsletter and mailed prior to January 1.

Article VI-Officers and Their Election

B Amend to insert “regular associate” to read as follows “All officers shall be voting regular, regular associate or regular life members of the Association in good standing.”

Article VII-Meetings

C Quorum Amend by inserting after the word “regular” the words “regular associate” to read as follows “the presence of not less than 100 or 30 per cent regular, regular associate and life members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business but a lesser number may adjourn to some future time and date or at the next annual meeting.”

D Voting First sentence Amend after the word “regular” the words “regular associate” to read “The right to vote in the transaction of business in the Association is vested in paid-up regular, regular associate and regular life members of each organization of the Association.

Article VIII-Board of Directors

B Membership d Insert the words regular associate after word “regular” to read d One elected regular, regular associate or life member of each organization of the Association.

Whereas The voting membership of the Association has adopted a new category of membership entitled “Regular Associate members” and

Whereas Regular Associate membership will include applications for membership in the Association female lineal descendants now therefore be a

Resolved that the Bylaws of the Association be amended by removing all references to gender where appropriate

## Present-Day Marines Aiding in Reunion

*Continued from page 1*

Downtown Norfolk includes the waterfront. There are several cruise opportunities and a host of dining experiences within walking distance, museums, landmarks and other activities. For those with transportation, there is Williamsburg nearby, the Yorktown Battlefield “up the road” and other historical sites. If any Marines wish to visit the Douglas MacArthur Museum here, this is their chance.

How the relationship developed with Santacroce was pure John Foley. He saw or heard of Okinawa Hall and wondered what it was. He called to ask if he could visit and ended up talking to Santacroce, whom he promptly enlisted to assist in the Reunion planning. Santacroce and an approximate 15 Marines he summoned to aid the cause, went to work. For speaker, they came up with a possible senator, Jim Webb, former Marine officer or the younger Mike Krulak, former commandant, whose father helped plan the invasion of Okinawa and fought there. Nothing has jelled as yet, though.

## 4 Battles, 2 Wounds Couldn't Stop Bauer

Hank Bauer, the hard-nosed ex-Marine who returned to baseball after being twice wounded during World War II and went on to become a cornerstone of the New York Yankees dynasty, died Feb. 9 this year. He was 84.

Bauer died of cancer in Shawnee Mission, Kan. He managed the 1966 Baltimore Orioles to their first World Series title.

A three-time All-Star outfielder, Bauer played on Yankees teams that won nine American League pennants and seven World Series in 10 years. He set the Series record with a 17-game hitting streak, a mark that still stands.

Bauer was a platoon sergeant in the Fourth Raider Battalion and in the Fourth Marines, Sixth Division. He saw action on Guadalcanal and New Georgia before being wounded on Guam and again on Okinawa. He received a Bronze Star with V in both of the last two battles.

“Hank Bauer is an emblem of a generation that helped shape the landscape of our country,” Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement reported by the New York Times. Bauer was a major ingredient in the Yankees’ success during his years in New York from 1948-59.

## Sons and Daughters Must Be Counted to Be Eligible

Fellow Marines and Friends, because we are a tax-free association and have to adhere to the Bylaws, we need a head count of our Sons and Daughters. The best way to accomplish this is to have all of them pay their 2007 dues. The dues are \$10.00 per year. Please send the dues to: Florence Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, Texas 76011-5550.

We also need to know if any of the Sons and Daughters have served in any branch of the United States Military at any time. Please communicate that information to Mrs. Dornan even if you have already paid your dues. Her e-mail address is [sxthmardiv@aol.com](mailto:sxthmardiv@aol.com) or call 1-817-275-1552. The last date for enrollment is July 1st, 2007. Anyone not on roll by July 1st will be dropped off until next year.

A word of thanks to all my Sons and Daughters who have worked so hard this year, you are very much appreciated.

I received a letter from Turner Publishing Company; they published a book called “The Sixth Marine Division, The Striking Sixth.” This book was published in 1980; this is not the History of the Sixth Marine Division Book that we received from the Corps upon discharge in 1946. This book is 9” X 12”, 142 pages, hardbound, and full of gripping photos. It is a comprehensive written history and personal biographies of our men. If we can get 150 orders at \$30.00 each, then we can go to print. Fellow Marines, Sons and Daughters, can you imagine leaving this legacy to our children, grandchildren and generations to come? Please think about ordering your copies and let Florence Dornan know how many to order for you. Again, you can reach her at 817-275-1552 or e-mail [sxthmardiv@aol.com](mailto:sxthmardiv@aol.com). The sooner you all order, the sooner we go to print!

That is all for now,

Semper Fi,

Martin Essex, President





**SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**The Radisson Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia**  
**2007 Annual Reunion ~ October 9 - October 14**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

Tues. 10/09/07	6:30 AM 12 PM Until 5 PM	Free breakfast in hotel dining room Registration Member (Spouse no charge) \$ 20.00 Guests (Number _____ @ \$20 each) \$ _____  Hospitality Room Open - Liquor, beer, pop, snacks
Wed. 10/10/07	8 AM 12-2 PM	Buses leave for USS Wisconsin for 9 AM Memorial Service After Service, walk or bus to Spirit of Norfolk for Luncheon Cruise (Live entertainment, Full service buffet, Coffee, Dessert) \$45 Per Person \$ _____
Thurs. 10/11/07	6:30 AM 9:00 AM	Breakfast in hotel dining room (Bring your tickets) Registration Sons and Daughters Meeting Hospitality Room Open Additional activities to be announced
Fri. 10/12/07	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 10:00 AM	Breakfast in hotel dining room Registration Board of Directors Meeting Ladies Luncheon (Time to be announced)
Sat. 10/13/07	6:30 AM 9:00 AM 5:30 PM	Breakfast in hotel dining room Men's Membership Meeting Banquet ~ Dinner, Guest Speaker, Installation of Officers, Dancing. Please advise number and choice. \$40 Per Person Chicken _____ Prime Rib _____ Fish _____ \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSN., INC.** TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: John Foley, 5161 Forest Glenn Drive, Spring Hill, FL 34607**  
**Phone: 352-686-6209**

**Radisson Hotel Norfolk, Norfolk, VA.**  
**October 9, 2007 – October 14, 2007**

**ARRIVAL DATE:**\_\_\_\_\_ **DEPARTURE DATE:**\_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:**\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:**\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_**

**PHONE:**\_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Single, Double Occupancy: \$89 per night**

Please check preferred accommodations:   ☐ King Bed   ☐ Two Beds   ☐ Handicap

\_\_\_Smoking      \_\_\_Non-Smoking

**Please complete this form and return it with a deposit in the amount of one night's lodging \$89.00 to:**

***Radisson Hotel Norfolk 700 Monticello Avenue Norfolk VA 23510***

**OR: Call 1-800-333-3333 – or – (757) 627-5555**

**BE SURE TO MENTION 6<sup>th</sup> MARINE DIVISION REUNION FOR THE \$89.00 RATE.**

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:** Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however they are not guaranteed:\_\_\_\_\_

***DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2007.*** After that date reservations will be taken on availability basis only. Cancellations will be accepted up to 72 hours before arrival date. One night's lodging (\$89.00) will be CHARGED if cancellation is after that time.

Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Send in your reservations early to assure availability!** Hotel check-in is 3:00 pm - check-out is 12:00 Noon

**AIRPORT SHUTTLE:** Please call the hotel directly (757) 627-5555 at least 24 hours in advance of your arrival to schedule your Airport Shuttle pick up. At that time you should schedule the shuttle for the date of your departure as well.

Confirmation will be provided by the ***Radisson Hotel Norfolk.***

## President Essex Weighs In On Directory Stall

*Continued from page 1*

Reunions since it has been done many times, but McConville is right, except for rigidly controlled circumstances, and then no more than \$1,500 in \$500 increments.

My solution to that was to print the Directory, which could be done within the \$7,500 budget and go back to the board for \$1,500, which would at least help with the addressing and mailing. McConville then told Singleton that the budget is only \$3,000, and that is all the money we can have for the project.

I went to our judge advocate Sam Petriello, who told me that he supported McConville's decision to withhold the checks. This is where we stand now. Thanks to Flo Dornan, who did almost all of the work without monetary reward, we have a beautiful, print-ready Directory that the Division can be proud of, approved twice by the membership, that we can't print and mail.

This action by the treasurer has made me aware of problems I didn't know existed in our association. When the will of the membership is ignored by one officer it makes one take a hard look at our bylaws, which may have had significant changes in recent years. First, I believe we need to poll either the executive committee or the board of directors for a solution to our Directory difficulties. Then, I think we should take the larger situation to the membership this fall. Marines, call or write if you have an opinion

## Ed Marsalek First Saw Action at Marshall Islands

**Ed's Note: Upon request, President-elect Ed Marsalek tells us about himself:**

I was born in Chicago and a lifelong resident of Chicago. Inducted in the Marines, April 1943, I was discharged at Great Lakes Naval Station December 1946 with the rank of Corporal. Upon discharge I attended college and graduated from Law School in 1953. I was admitted to the Bar in 1953, and in 1966 admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

After Law School I was a staff attorney for the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Deputy Executive Director of the Illinois Tollway Authority and then sworn in as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County and served in many divisions of the court including being a Supervising Judge of a division. I retired from the judiciary after serving 26 years in January of 1997. I belong to many civic, community and Marine Associations. I married Ann in 1960 and we have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

My military experience began with boot camp at San Diego. Assigned to Communication School. After graduation I was assigned to Camp Pendleton for additional training, courses in Jungle Survival, etc. I left San Diego early September 1943 on USS Cowpens (a converted aircraft carrier). Scuttlebutt had it that we would be disembarked in either New Zealand or Australia as members of a heavy-duty construction team.

Evidently someone called an audible and we were sent to Pearl Harbor, assigned to Camp Caitlin, then to Maui to be part of a Joint Assault Signal Unit (JASU). JASU later became Joint Assault Signal Company (JASCO). My function as a wireman was to "hit the beach" in the 2nd or 3rd wave and establish communication between the command post and the front lines. After Maui, I participated in the Marshall Islands (Engibe Atoll Campaign), liberation and recapture of Guam, the capture of Okinawa and participated; in the official surrender of Japan, as a member of the Tokyo Bay Area Occupation Force.

## 2006 General Meeting Minutes

**NOTE:** Because of scheduling requirements of the Memorial Service, the posted time of the Membership Meeting was necessarily delayed.

President Howell prefaced the meeting by announcing that a member of the Auxiliary from Oklahoma would be allowed to make a presentation in bidding to host the 2007 reunion. That presentation was to have been made in the approximate time of the presentation by John Foley who was to present information on his bid for Norfolk, VA to host the 2007 reunion. This did not go well with Foley. He felt that since he had not received a notification from any parties other than his presentation that the matter was not open. President Howell overruled that and announced that the Lady would be allowed to make her presentation.

President Emeritus Sinatra graciously

assumed the role of Sergeant at Arms for the duration of the meeting.

President Howell opened the meeting and asked President-elect Essex to lead in The Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Mack gave the Invocation. President Howell asked for the roll call of the Officers and Unit Directors. Absences were noted and accounting provided for those with cause for non-attendance.

Minutes of the previous meeting were not read in deference to the passing of Secretary Tamaio. Treasurer McConville reported the status of the General Fund and the Supplemental Fund.

Public Relations Chair Pierce reported on the "Sugarloaf Hill" painting. All is going well, and the brass plate which is to be attached was passed so that all could see. Presentation will be made to the Marine Corps Museum, hopefully on or near the Marine Corps Birthday in 2007. Bill also reported on the health of a dear friend of the 6th, Dave Davenport, Curator of the Battle of Okinawa Museum.

The Service Officer, Carl Sproatt, was unable to attend the reunion, but sent the Urn Markers for possible distribution to the members. Carl is in poor health and has moved from Florida to Ohio. Bill Pierce and Chaplain Mack reported on the providing of Memorial Markers to family members of Marines who pass. John Foley also provides Markers when appropriate.

Judge Advocate Petriello reported on the Scholarship Program, reminding the members to take advantage of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and its provision for awarding scholarships to lineal descendants of Sixth Marine Division Marines.

The Editor's report was not presented in the usual good form that Joe Singleton gives because the President's e-mail program malfunctioned. The essence was that Joe is asking to be relieved of the position as soon as a replacement is found. Joe suggested Flo Dornan, but Flo declined. His report on the

*Continued on next page*

# HISTORIAN'S CORNER

In case you hadn't heard yet, the Marine Corps has a new PR tool. A long overdue museum—The National Museum of the Marine Corps; to the “greatest fighting force in the world” in Quantico, Virginia—the “Cross Roads of the Marine Corps” opened in November of 2006.

I was fortunate to have received one of the coveted tickets to the opening festivities and as my husband, the Major, told everyone, he was invited as my guest. There were many highlights that day. For me personally, meeting some of the Navajo Code Talkers and reacquainting myself with Major Wells of Iwo Jima fame were two. Yet there were many others.

The weather, something that in this area could have been horrible, was perfect. In fact, my husband and I'm sure others in their blues, were wishing that it had been 10 degrees cooler. Perfect blue skies were the order of the day.

The young lieutenants wandering around handing out water and offering assistance offered the sense of continuity through time. The fly over, the entertainment, static displays, having the President and other notables there all gave it the air of an occasion. The respect and attention to the history and lore of the Marines paid by the guest speakers was expected and appreciated.

However what was most important was the Marines, for it was truly their celebration, and they knew it. There were no strangers that day, just Marines and their fans. I felt fortunate to count myself as part of their numbers.

The museum itself is beautiful. Set close enough to Interstate 95 that it has changed the skyline, it is architecturally representative of the flag raising on Iwo Jima. Airplanes hang from the ceiling; mannequins made with living Marine models make it a visual delight. It is a glass and chrome monument to as much Marine Corps mythos as its history.

Sixth Marine Division members may, for example, be disappointed at how little attention is paid to Okinawa. I was equally disappointed at the coverage of early Marine Corps history. However the Marines story is definitely told in this place. From boot camp to ‘frozen Chosin’ the idea of what it means to be a Marine is conveyed in a way that we can all be proud of.

The introductory movie, which I was fortunate enough to have a small part in compiling, is a masterpiece and you will see faces you recognize. Bill Sams of the 15th Regiment and Bill Steed, warrior, special friend of the Sixth and husband of Danny Dereschuk's, G-2-22, daughter, Lt. Col. Jean Steed, are two of the “movie's stars.” If you look closely in the credits you might even see my name. So you see the 6th is well represented at the museum. The movie will come as close to explaining to those who can never understand what it means to bear the title.

The National Museum is a job well done. For those of you who have not visited, I highly encourage a trip with your families, and for those who contributed financially, your money was well spent. As one walks the brick path outside, (the bricks can be bought in memory of Marines, both past and present) they are reminded of the cost and sacrifice that the Corps has expended on its nation's behalf—I personally thank all of you. ~ *Laura Lacey*



*Laura Lacey*



*Laura Lacey - Opening Day at the Museum*

## 2006 General Meeting Minutes...

**Continued...**Directory showed that the appropriated funds are not sufficient, and another \$3000.00 was needed. A motion to authorize the additional funds was made, seconded and approved.

Nominations for Officers were made, elected Officers held their posts for another year with the exception of President Howell, who stepped down and was replaced by President-elect Marty Essex. Ed Marsalek was named President-elect. Unit Directors names were given to Secretary Terpinas. Following the

presentation for Oklahoma City by the Auxiliary member, and the assumed proposal by John Foley (not presented), the members chose John's Norfolk, VA selection for 2007 and offering to award 2008 to Oklahoma City if interested.

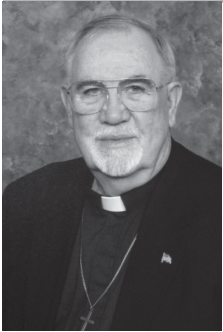
Chaplain Mack delivered the Benediction, and President Howell accepted a motion to adjourn.

Ed's Note: Due to a recorder malfunction Secretary Tom Terpinas was unable to record the minutes. President Howell, once again, was able to resurrect the happenings from memory.

## Chizik Coach at Iowa State

**Gene Chizik, son of a decorated 6th Division Marine of the same name now deceased, was recently named head football coach at Iowa State University in Ames, IA. Named NCAA coordinator of the year for 1A teams while coaching the defense at Auburn University in 2004, Chizik coached the defense for national champion University of Texas in 2005.**





Rev. Mack

Greetings from your Chaplain! I begin my report this time by again asking you to keep either Flo Dornan or myself informed about the death

of a fellow Marine or a beloved spouse as soon as possible. Often reports are received stating that a member had passed away several years ago. We recently were informed about the death of a member that occurred nearly seven years ago. Although these reports are appreciated anytime, it's not easy for me to express condolences after so much time has elapsed. I would also appreciate knowing about any member who is ill or experiencing any stress or trauma, so I can send him a letter of encouragement. I must depend on you in order to respond in a timely manner.

It is hard to believe that 62 years have gone by since we landed on Okinawa when most of us were only teenagers. The memory of that long ago epoch event in our lives is seared too deep in our hearts to ever forget. We may forget what we had for breakfast, but we'll never forget the sights, sounds and smells of those hellish 82 days we spent while fighting

the last great battle of World War II. The ravages of time have depleted our ranks, but it can never destroy the brotherhood we formed in 1945.

Today, we are at least octogenarians, while some of us are even beyond that designation. That is, unless you were only 17 years old when we landed on the beaches of Okinawa on April 1, 1945. Now that we've reached that ripe old milestone we realize that the future does not stretch infinitely before us as it once did. At our Memorial Service each year we commemorate the lives of those who have passed on. We mourn their deaths, but we are grateful that such heroes have lived and walked among us. We are vividly aware that each time we hear taps played, it may be for the last time.

As we look back over our lives we can see God's almighty and compassionate Heart has always been with us. His hand of blessing has always rested on our shoulders, even though at times we were not aware of it. As young men on the field of battle, we had no idea how close our Lord was to us. As He looked down, and perhaps even walked amidst the wounded and the dying, He must have surveyed that vast domain of pain and felt our suffering too. Some of us He took home to heaven, and others

He spared and sent home to our loved ones, in order for us to serve Him in other ways.

As our ranks continue to thin, the number of our honored dead increases with each passing year. When the last of our voices fall silent, the "Striking Sixth" will only be a memory. Let us pray that future generations will preserve that memory, as our children and our children's children continue to remember the legacy we leave behind. Our Sons and Daughters group is standing by, ready to carry on, and hold high the torch of remembrance that we must soon pass on to them.

Our 37th annual reunion, scheduled to be held in Norfolk, VA. in October 2007, is rapidly taking shape. John Foley, our reunion chairman, is once again, putting forth his excellent and outstanding efforts in coordinating the many activities and site accommodations that we will all enjoy. Our Memorial Service will be held aboard the USS Wisconsin on Wednesday morning, October 10. I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will plan to attend this reunion. Come and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of your brother Marines. Semper Fi, and may God bless you.

Rev. Frank J. Mack

## Mail Call

Bill (Pierce): I received the excellent bronze medallion and photo. Thanks for the kind gift and for the time you took to connect me and my family with my father's past. I greatly appreciate it and respect what you do to help keep the memory of the 6th Marine Division alive. Sometime this spring we will head out

to his grave and add the bronze marker. I will send you a photo when done. Best wishes and continued good health to you and your family.

Semper Fi, Daniel J. Downey, Farmington, CT, (860) 409-9140



Dear Mr. Pierce: Thank you so much for sending the 6th Marine Division Memorial Plaque. I am going to put up a memorial to my Dad, and this will be a part of it. He was a Marine from the tip of his toes to the top of his head until his dying breath. The Marine Corps League did a great job

*Continued on page 10*



# All Sons/Daughters

## Ten Hut!! Urgent Message to 6th Division Sons & Daughters!

In Mid-March 2007, Martin Essex, Pres., 6th Marine Division Association, contacted Connie Haynes Houseweart of our group. He was concerned that not too many sons & daughters have paid their current Association Dues.

Rightly so, he is worried that the 2006 "interested members" aren't really interested anymore. Please, please, if you haven't already paid your \$10.00 membership for 2007, pick up your pen and check book and do it NOW!

(Remember, the Newsletter is \$10.00 extra. Also, membership is calendar year, Jan. to Dec., so if you paid dues mid-year last year, it's time again.) Send your check to Florence Dornan, Membership Mgr., 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011. (Mom & Dad! Show this to your kids!)

Our fathers, grandfathers, and uncles who served in the Marines' 6th Division, during W.W. II deserve to be honored and remembered by as many U.S. citizens as possible. You, as an involved relative and/or friend, are the "key" to keeping our Marines' memories alive beyond their lifespans! So, join us right now.

Speaking of soldiers' memories, Mr. Essex would like to know who among the sons and daughters has been in the military service. To let him know, E-mail him at [messex1946@aol.com](mailto:messex1946@aol.com) or mail him a note at 2712 Lotus Hill Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89134. Or, you can e-mail our Contact Person, Connie, at [almostnuts1@comcast.net](mailto:almostnuts1@comcast.net) or send a note to her at 258 Sechler Drive, Montoursville, PA 17754.



## Ten hut!! Uncle Sam wants you!

### 6th Marine Division Financial Statement General Fund

Sept. 1, 2005			Feb. 1, 2006		
Bank Balance	28,959.32	Expenses	Bank Balance	38,538.09	Expenses
Deposits	2,483.50	200.00 Membership Mgr.	Deposits	1,585.00	200.00 Membership Mgr.
Interest	2.18	1,098.35 T. Dodd, Newsletter	Interest	2.72	12.75 Service Charge
	31,445.00	1,298.35		40,125.81	212.75
Expenses	-1,298.35		Expenses	212.75	
	30,146.65			39,913.06	
Oct. 1, 2005			March 1, 2006		
Bank Balance	30,146.65	200.00 Membership Mgr.	Bank Balance	39,913.06	35.40 PR Chairman
Deposits	2,340.00	61.45 PR Chairman.	Deposits	622.00	
Interest	2.41	74.04 D. Whitaker, exp.	Interest	3.08	
	32,489.06	110.10 Treasurer		40,502.74	
	- 445.89	445.89			
	32,043.17		April 1, 2006		
Nov. 1, 2005			Bank Balance	40,502.74	200.00 March-Mem. Mgr.
Bank Balance	32,043.17	85.30 J. Dornan, exp.	Deposits	535.00	200.00 April---Mem. Mgr.
Deposits	2,545.00	200.00 Membership Mgr.	Interest	2.81	400.00
Interest	2.44	2,000.00 Seed Money, Brown	Expenses	400.00	
	34,590.61	2,285.30		40,640.55	
	-2,285.30		May 1, 2006		
	32,305.31		Bank Balance	40,640.55	362.00 J. Foley, exp.
Dec. 1, 2005			Deposits	190.00	200.00 Membership Mgr.
Bank Balance	32,305.31	200.00 Membership Mgr.	Interest	3.28	36.99 PR Chairman
Deposits	7,505.66	29.29 PR Chairman		40,833.83	1,000.00 Marydel Gaiser
Interest	2.33	55.94 PR Chairman	Expenses	1,598.99	1,598.99
	39,813.30	1,000.00 History Society		39,234.84	
Expenses	-4,463.03	39.68 PR Chairman	June 1, 2006		
	35,350.27	3,138.12 Leesburg Printing	Bank Balance	39,234.84	200.00 Membership Mgr.
		4,463.03	Deposits	2,585.00	3,192.12 Leesburg Printing
Jan. 1, 2006			Interest	2.87	228.54 Service Officer
Bank Balance	35,350.27	200.00 Membership Mgr.		41,822.71	3,620.66
Deposits	3,540.00	155.00 Membership Mgr.	Expenses	3,620.66	
Interest	2.82	355.00		38,202.05	
	38,893.09		July 1, 2006		
Expenses	-355.00		Bank Balance	38,202.05	115.57 PR Chairman
	38,538.09		Deposits	1,370.00	119.34 Membership Mgr.
			Interest	2.98	200.00 Membership Mgr.
				39,575.03	434.91
			Expenses	434.91	
				39,140.12	

By Jack Rice

**Do you remember.....?**

During the days we were serving in either Corps there was a story that became a legend. It was about a Corpsman having conducted an appendectomy aboard a submarine. Recently I found a copy of his letter to another party which piqued my interest in the real story.

While aboard the USS Seadragon during September of 1942, PhM1c Wheeler B. "Johnny" Lipes was the Hospital Corpsman. He was on independent duty when a member of the crew complained of an illness. It was the 19th birthday of the crew member. Wheeler correctly diagnosed appendicitis and after consultation with his CO it was decided there was no alternative to an appendectomy and the CO ordered it done.

Additional circumstances are too complex to describe here but the operation was not under ideal conditions and involved the making of surgical instruments not found on the sub. The operation was successful although the crew member was later KIA.

"Doc" Lipes was highly acclaimed for his action. He received a promotion to CPO and actually stayed in the Navy, retiring from the Navy as a LtCdr in the Medical Service Corps in 1962. He died of cancer in 2006, just weeks after he was belatedly awarded a Navy Commendation Medal for this operation.

There were two other successful appendectomies performed by submarine corpsmen, one by PhM1c Harry B. Roby aboard the USS Grayback and another by PhM1c Tom Moore aboard the USS Silversides. Both in December of 1942. No other incidents are known. The Brass at BurMed in DC stopped this.

In his letter of 8-27-04 "Doc" Lipes wrote to a friend: "Tradition is exemplified by John Bradley and all others who answered and still do when called "Doc" on a battlefield or sick call when calling out for relief of pain. Our traditions of service are legendary and it took each and everyone of the Corpsmen to make it real.

"My contribution to our history was minor when our overall contributions are viewed as a whole. We served in all oceans, on islands, on ships, North and South Pole, in the air, under the sea, always answering when called. A career in the Navy today gives opportunities beyond imagination, especially in the Hospital Corps."

**SONS/DAUGHTERS**

We can be very proud our sons and daughters are now organized and ready to offer assistance. As stated in a previous Striking Sixth, "...the Sons & Daughters of the 6th Marine Division have indeed regrouped!" Of the 18 listed four are from the 6th Medical Battalion. They are:

Scott Anderson, son of Harvey Anderson  
Barbara Titus Kaplowitz, daughter of David Titus  
Toni Rice Keys, daughter of Jack Rice  
Peggy Anderson O'Herin, daughter of Harvey Anderson

**TAPS**

Lula McGrath informed us that her husband, Dennis McGrath, passed away October 19th, 2006 of melanoma. Her letter will be reproduced in the next issue of the SICK BAY. Lula remains on the mailing list and stays informed of activities. The family remains in our prayers and thoughts.

**FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS**

Having heard many great reports of this movie, I will recommend it to you if you have not had a chance to see it. I am in the middle of reading the book and prefer to see it when finished. Great story and exquisitely written.

**NORFOLK**

Considering that this has always been THE Navy town, we should find it additionally interesting for our Reunion in October. We have plans to continue our tradition of a hospitality suite for Corpsmen and guests. More of this in the SICK BAY.

at Dad's funeral, complete with regular Maine pall bearers. We will miss him always. Bobby McGraw and family, Taft, TN.



Dear Joe, Bill Pierce sent me your e-mail address about obtaining info on my grandfather who was part of the 6th division, 22nd Marines, particularly regarding the battle of Sugar Loaf Hill. He was reported KIA by his comrades but was actually still alive. I want to contact anybody who was in combat with him. He is also a recipient of the Bronze Star for his heroic deeds in that battle. Unfortunately, like countless other Marines, his bravery and patriotism has been underplayed. I intend to seek recognition of this part of the war to its fullest. Okinawa deserves the same (if not more) remembrances as Iwo Jima and Normandy. Why do we celebrate the invasion with such reverence and not celebrate the last battle? My grandfather was there. These men, to my sadness, continue to go unrecognized. I would like to see history books include, in more detail and with the same reverence, the importance of this section of the Pacific Theater. If you can help me, I will, and as would my grandfather, be eternally grateful. I intend to keep the 6th alive. His name was Sgt. Robert M. Dempsey. He was married to Celia M. Mallard, Navy WAVE. I have joined the membership. Semper Fi, Heather, jermynshez@netzero.net



Bill Pierce - I just want to thank you for the 6th Marine Division Plaque and the print "Final Battle-Final Flag." I've joined the Sons and Daughters, and I purchased the video you recommended but haven't had a chance to watch it yet. And, thank you for all your help in learning about the 6th Division. Sincerely, Jeanine Lennon, 29 Mountain Ash Rd., Marston Mills, MA 02648



I think it is likely there has been more than one "history" of the Sixth, but if the leadership of the Association has in mind the best, please advise me of the name and where I can obtain it. Elvis Bozarth,

*Continued on page 11*

Continued from Page 9

Aug. 1, 2006		Expenses	
Bank Balance	39,140.12	200.00	Membership Mgr.
Deposits	2,155.00	221.00	Treasurer
Interest	2.97	3,170.64	Leesburg Printing
	41,298.09	3591.64	
Expenses	3,591.64		
	37,706.45		
Sept. 1, 2006			
Bank Balance	37,706.45	100.27	PR Chairman
Deposits	838.50	94.77	Membership Mgr.
Interest	2.71	200.00	Membership Mgr.
	38,547.66	42.73	Newsletter Ed.
Expenses	437.77	437.77	
	38,109.89		

Addendum: PR Chairman Bill Pierce's expenses resulted from his communications duties in keeping the Division in the public eye and serving the needs of a variety of interested parties. Membership Manager Flo Dornan receives a monthly check in performance of her duties and has expenses. The treasurer Joe McConville has occasional expenses. John Foley had Reunion expenses. Marydel Gaiser was a Reunion consultant. Dick Whitaker and Jack Dornan performed duties for the Division resulting in expenses. The History payment went to the Okinawa Museum at the direction of President Harold (Pete) Howell. Leesburg Printing does the newsletter. T. Dodd used to. Newsletter Editor Joe Singleton turned in his first expenses in five years following a fit of impotent rage as he had to finish up on a rental computer at 3 a.m. due his own computer's continuing malfunctioning. In the stress of his suffusing maladjustment, he was doggoned if he was going to pay Kinko's out of his own pocket even if it was his own fault.

## Overflow Account

Sept, 2005 Bank Balance	\$62,953.04
Interest received (9-2005 to 9,2006)	977.14
Sept. 2006 Bank Balance	63,930.18

Hello Everyone:

I hope you all had a happy, healthy and joyful holiday season! I spent New Years in Indiana and had the opportunity to have dinner with Harold Stanley. He is well and going strong. He sends his best wishes to all.

I received many lovely cards and notes from many of you over the holidays. Thank you all very much. It was so nice to hear all of you were doing o.k.

In 2006, many of our good friends were taken. It saddened me to learn of the passing of Betty Zampikos and Ali Dereschuk. Both were faithful Marine wives, loyal Auxiliary members and dear friends to many of us. It is sad to hear of the loss of any of our members, they will always be in our thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Eastwood has not yet replied to our letter or petition as of this writing. I am sure he received it. It was signed for by one of his staff. I plan to keep on top of it, as we deserve to get an answer.

The weather here in the Northeast has been too good to be true. We have had little snow, just a dusting, little ice and not too cold. I am sure before long we can expect our share. I am hoping to be able to go to the Marine Museum to look up the brick with my Joe's name on it. He was so proud to be a Marine Corpsman.

I must contact, my shadow, Donna Mallica, for her finesse in getting another letter off to Mr. Eastwood. God Bless our Sons & Daughters. We are sure lucky to have them behind us. Till we meet again.

Semper Fi, Marion



Marion Bangert

## Mail Call *Continued from page 10*

arcsoco@sonic.net Note from Bill Pierce: There was only one definitive history on the Sixth Div. That is 'The History of the Sixth Marine Division,' by Col. Bevan Cass. It is out of print but is available on used book sites. I use these and they are excellent: Alibris Abe Books, Powell's Books, Amazon Book Search, Barnes & Noble Used Books, and Addall Book Search. The book is also available from Battery Press in Nashville, TN, but it is a non-glossy reprint. Other books have been written about our Sixth in detail. These are available on the used book sites also. 'Tennozan' by George Pfeifer and 'Killing Ground on Okinawa - the Battle for Sugar Loaf Hill,' by James Hallas.



A young man, who used to mow my yard and is now a Marine in Iraq, saw a clipping in the Marine Corps Times, recognized me and sent it to me. Which shows my picture and tells about one of the battles I was in many years ago. Both of the other

Marines in the photo were killed later, one on Guam, one on Okinawa. I am lucky to be here. Faris (Bob) Tuohy, 22nd Marines. **Ed's Note: Unfortunately, we cannot reproduce newspaper photos in any recognizable form. Taken aboard a transport after the Eniwetok Campaign, the photo shows Tuohy and two other Marines, grimy and weary, drinking coffee.**



Hi Bill (Pierce, Division PR Chief): We received the picture and the things you sent with it. We are so appreciative of what you have done in helping us with this endeavor to enlighten Bob's grandchildren in what took place so many years ago. His memory will be honored. Thank you for your service to this country; because of it we are still free. I, also, hope that we can get information from someone regarding my brother, Robt. G. Heath from Illinois, who was in the 6th Division on Sugar Loaf Hill. God bless you. The Heath's, Chuck & Gini



GENTLEMEN OF FOX COMPANY AND OTHERS:

I have received word from Keith W. Ryan, the son of Kenneth A. Ryan, 386852, F-2-29, that his father passed away on Christmas Eve, 2006 after a short illness. Kenneth A. Ryan joined F-2-29 on June 1, 1944, as did his twin brother Keith. Keith M. Ryan, 386851, a runner for Company Commander, Bob Sherer, was killed on May 19th, 1945 during the F-2-29 assault (on) the Sugar Loaf Hill/Horseshoe Ridge sector. Kenneth was wounded during that same action.

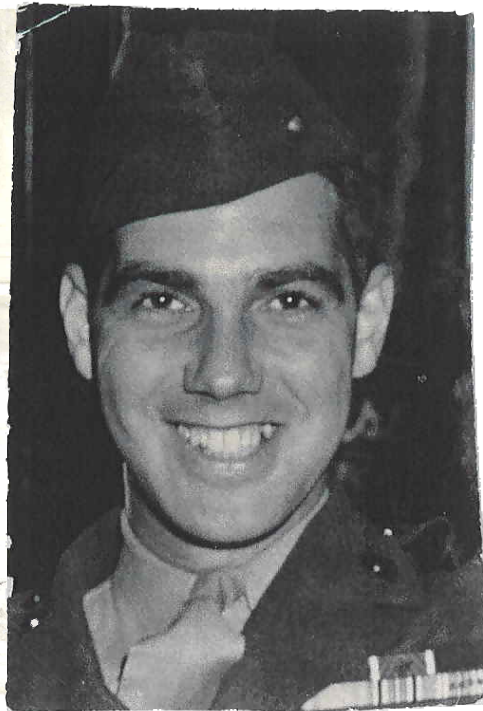
Keith W. Ryans's letter to me follows: Dick (Whitaker, F-2-29):

Just writing to let you know that my Dad, Kenneth Ryan of Fox Company passed away at 3:30 AM on Christmas Eve. He went peacefully in his sleep after a month-long illness...I don't know if you were aware, but Victor Hanson who writes for

*Continued on page 12*



# Does Anyone Know This Marine?



This WWII Marine's son has been searching for his father for years. His E-Mail states that his mother would not reveal his father's name. There is nothing to go on but these photos, one showing four stars on his Asiatic-Pacific ribbon and one or more stars on his Purple Heart. He may not be from the 6th, but he could be. Contact Bob Fortelny, (714) 457-1945.

## Location of Missing Marine Believed Found-Majewski

Pfc. John Quinn of the Sixth Division, missing in action since 1945, is believed to be in a cave located by Chris Majewski, director of the Battle Museum of Okinawa. Chris was looking for the site after PR Chairman Bill Pierce, Wpns-2-29, received a note from a nephew of Quinn's seeking information about his uncle's remains.

It turns out that the casualty report had the latitude and longitude of the for some reason unrecovered body.

Bill received the following communication from Majewski, which also tells of his usual effort to accommodate visiting 6th Division Marines.

Bill: Just a few quick words before I leave for a tour. I checked the MIA site and found the cave. It is about three feet deep in dirt. I also got a contact from JPAC about the MIA, a Mr. McDermont, who was TAD. Someone dropped the ball, but the bottom line is I found the cave (99.9% sure, but I still have to check the whole area).

A second thing. I had Don Honis, I-3-29, on my Battle Tour Sunday, then took him to Half Moon, Sugar Loaf, Shuri and the mud flats on Tuesday. He got to see part of the museum, but it was in disarray due to the renovation I'm in the middle of. I did set up a few displays Monday night, so he got to see some of it. The biggest thing was I got him to the top of Half Moon. He is a happy Marine.

Give him my best when he contacts you.

Semper Fi, Chris

## Mail Call *Continued from page 12*

the National Review was named for his uncle from Fox Company and I was named for mine – both our uncles died in the same hail of bullets on May 18, 1945.

Keith W. Ryan, Metcalf & Eddy | AECOM, 1140 Route 22 East, Suite 101, Bridgewater, NJ 08807; p: 908-947-0272, keith.ryan@m-e.aecom.com



My name is Helen Natelli and I am trying to see if anyone knew my dad PFC Richard Joseph Chestnut. Most people called him Bud. He was wounded May 15, 1945 while serving with Company C, Sixth Marine Division, regiment unknown. Thank you, Helen Natelli, Helen.natelli@elmarinc.com



Hello Mr. Singleton: I am Virginia F. White, wife of James E. White, who, when he got the winter edition of the Striking Sixth, (It's a joy to get it, I even like to read it.) noticed the unknown Marine in the picture, "On The Canal." He's unknown no longer. Jim says he is Charlie Scaub. Charlie was on the Police Force in Southern Florida (Fort Lauderdale, Miami), but unfortunately Charlie was killed in the line of duty. He

was attached to G-3-15 the same as Jim, who is very proud that he served his country as a Marine helping capture Okinawa. The only thing he won't try to capture is the computer. Sincerely, Virginia White, 95 Hurwood Ave., Merritt Island, FL 32953



I was referred by Bill Pierce, hope you can help me find a few buddies of Clyde Hooper, of Tennessee, who served as Chief Cook in the states, served w/ 105 mm Howitzer Bn (also seen as 79mm Pack Howitzer Bn on service record) at Guadalcanal, injured around 20 November there (back injury with dislocated vertebrae) & discharged. I finished Lacey's book, "Stay Off the Skyline" and have learned so much. Am trying to get the 6th Marine Division book through the Library system. My phone is 301-868-2373 & I will accept any long distance charges from his buddies. Thanks. Dorothy Weberling dotweber@aol.com



I would like to complement Joe Singleton on the excellent newsletter he produced in such a short period of time since the Harrisburg Reunion. My Mom and I always enjoy

reading it, as we find it both informative and interesting. Most people don't realize the skill, time and effort involved in a project of this nature. A "thank you" to Joe. Also, thanks to John Foley for picking up the ball when the Reunion was on the verge of being canceled. I thoroughly enjoyed it as I know many others did. The tours of Washington and Gettysburg were excellent. The time and effort putting the Reunion together were much appreciated. A "thank you" to John. Leo Gattoni, Associate Life Member



Dear Flo, Thanks for doing such a good job for the association. Not able to attend Reunions any more but am there in spirits. Enclosed is my payment for the 2007 Newsletter. Enjoy every one. J. E. Silvers, Sr., Co K 3 Bn 22nd Marines



Florence R. Dornan, Enclosed please find check for life membership in Sixth Marine Division. I am mentally handicapped person. I was member of the Sixth from

*Continued on page 13*

the day it started. It was also a Provisional Brigade. Kenneth C. Schafer, 6th Engineering-B



Dear Mrs. Dornan, I appreciate the many hours you dedicate to a worthy cause. I appreciate your permitting me to receive the "Striking Sixth" Newsletter. When Whit (Captain Orrin S. Whitten, deceased 1/14/2006, 22nd Mar-2E, Life member) became afflicted with macular degeneration, I would read it for "us." Every once in a while I would come across the name of some Marine or Navy man I cared for while serving in the USNR (NC) WWII and Korea. Sincerely, Virginia Whitten



Florence, I wish to thank you for all the good things you do for the 6th Division. Enclosed is my renewal as an associate member and the newsletter that I read cover to cover. I have been able to keep in touch with two 22nd Marines who knew Bob (his brother who was KIA in 1945), Gib Kanter and Rocco Labocetta and both live in New Jersey. I am not able to travel to see them in person as it seems age is creeping up on me too fast. The brochure on Wisconsin Veterans Tribute is where I purchased a plaque for him as we lived there as youngsters. Hope all is well with you and thanks again. Jim Larsen, Associate Member



Florence, here's my delinquent subscription dues for 2005, 2006 and 2007, too. Better late than never. I attended the Harrisburg Reunion and had a great time. Hope to see everyone in Norfolk. Bob McGowan II, Son of Sgt. R. W. McGowan, H/3/29



Dear Florence Dornan, The work you do for the Association is greatly appreciated. I thank you. A college classmate who served as a Capt in the 6th Division, Herbert T. Fitch, died July 23, 2006, in Penn Yan (NY). We both, including his brother from Florida, attended our college reunion in early June.

Sincerely yours, Constance Miller, 6th Marine Div. HQ Red Cross



Dear Florence, Wanted the Striking Sixth Newsletter to know Billy C. Henson, 29th MAR-1-A, died November 19th, 2006 from lung cancer. Once a Marine, always a Marine. Bill volunteered for the Marines at 17 years. Hit Okinawa Easter Sunday, April 1st, 1945. He was a small machine gunner, was hit on April 10th, 1945 on right elbow. Please check on the renewal of the Striking Sixth. We sent in the payment after receiving the Spring issue and also in 2005 early. Bill was so afraid he would miss a year. I am sending in a donation for the memorial marker. Thanks again for the newsletter. Bill always looked forward to reading it. As Bill would say, Semper Fidelis, Wife, Ruth Henson, 201 Lincoln Rd, Forest City, NC 28043



Dear Florence, Here's my check for the mailing of the 6th Div. Hope to make the trip to Norfolk - made one with the China Marines last year. Sure sorry to hear about Dave Davenport. He guided my wife and I around Okie in '95. We flew in on a C5A - space available - hit Japan, Okie, Guam. Came home on a trainer from Niagara Falls, NY. Dave gave us a good trip and I believe his Tunnel Rat Trips cost him his life. Thanks, Leon E. Wait, AUS Retired, 26 Pine Avenue, Wynantskill, NY 12198-7555



Dear Mrs. Dornan, Yes, I got the word!! Even former life members are expected to pay dues. Sounds okay with me! If not, why not? Hope you, John and family had an enjoyable Christmas. My entire clan, 5 children and 9 grandchildren live a "stones throw" from me. Sorry that my physical maladies keep me from making a Reunion; and I am a widower besides. Must commend you for taking on the responsibility of collecting dues - and what would we men do without you ladies. Received a call from Joseph McConville a few days ago, the "Bag Pipe Player" and he still can! I, like John Foley, was a member of the 4th Regiment. Previously with the 18th AAA Bn on Tinian Island and joined the 6th Div. on Guam before the trip to Yokusaka,

Japan. Having been bitten by a mosquito on Tinian, came down with denghwe fever and felt its effects in Japan. The fever kind of wore off in a few years when home in NY. As Gen Doug said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Once a Marine, always a Marine and once a Christian, always a Christian. Sincerely and Semper Fi, Leon Kazian



Dear Mrs. Dornan, I just spoke with your husband by phone to report the death of my husband, Howard Avant Yandle, on March 2, 2006. I wanted him to be remembered at the Memorial Service later this month. Howard was trained as a Navy Corpsman and served proudly with the Sixth Marine Div. on Okinawa. We attended a number of the conventions until his health became poor. I believe he became a life member but I'm enclosing a check for \$10 to continue the newsletter for another year. I would like to keep up with the news. Howard joined the Navy right after his 17th birthday. He was trained at Bainbridge, MD, Norfolk Naval Hosp at Portsmouth, VA and Med. Field Service at Camp Lejeune, NC. He was later sent with the Marines - eventually to Okinawa and was there when the war ended. He was discharged April 19, 1946. My best wishes to you and your husband. I'm so thankful for all those who fought diligently for the freedoms we have and for all who are doing so today. Sincerely, Betty H. Yandle, 4001 Trotter Ridge Road, Durham, NC 27707, 919-489-2440



Dear Flo, Want to express my gratitude for the work you have been doing for the corps. Also want to thank the scholarship committee for the money to help pay for my grandson's college. He is in his junior year at the School of Mines in Golden, CO. Without your help it would not be possible. Thanks again. Sincerely, Lester Weinstein



Dear Ms. Dornan: I was one of the fortunate ones who attended the dedication of the National Marine Museum at Quantico, VA Nov. 10 and 11. The

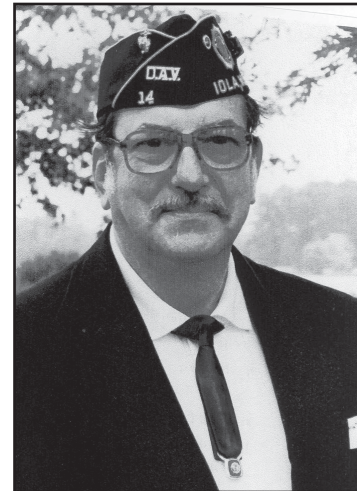
*Continued on page 14*

## New Members

CASTEEL, Henry O. ID #5928, 22nd MAR-1-B&E, Regular Annual to Life  
 DENIG, III, Robert L., ID #5962, Son of Robert L. Denig, Jr., Assoc. Annual  
 DUNBAR, Amy K., ID #5954, Daughter of Douglas Dunbar, Assoc. Annual  
 FOSTER, Jack B., ID #5961, 6th Division JASCO, Regular Annual  
 GILLESPIE, James T., ID #5960, 22nd MAR-1-A, Regular Life  
 JERNIGAN, Curtis, ID #5959, 29th MAR-6th Engineering-C, Regular Life  
 KELLY, Marion E., ID #5957, Brother of Walter A. Kelly, Associate Annual  
 LENNON, Jeanine, ID #5955, Daughter of Malcolm Farrell, Assoc. Annual  
 LOCKWOOD, Pamela, ID #5963, Daughter of Wm. C. Lockwood, Assoc. Life  
 SCHAFER, Kenneth C., ID#5853, 6th Engineering, Bn B, Reg. Annual to Life  
 SLOSS, James Richard, ID #5953, 4th MAR-3-L, Regular Annual  
 WHEELER, Rosemary, ID #5958, Daughter of James F. Burke, Assoc. Life

**Death Notices Should Be Sent To Flo Dornan** - The membership manager handles all notices of this type. Mrs. Dornan then notifies the chaplain and any others who should be contacted. Her address, phone number and E-Mail address are on the last page of this newsletter. Those who wish to publish biographical or other additional information in the Striking Sixth should additionally notify the editor, whose address is on Page 2.

## Thomas H. O'Brien



Thomas H. O'Brien, E-2-22, died in Wausau, WI Jan. 4 of this year. He was 81. The report of his death shows several battle stars, purple hearts and a number of other decorations. He served in four different divisions. He is survived by three daughters.

## Mail Call *Continued from page 13*

facility is all that I hoped it would be and the event was conducted superbly. The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation is to be congratulated. I want to say that the major impression made at the event were the young Marines on duty. I don't know how many were involved, maybe a thousand or more who assisted in parking, equipment demonstrations and in greeting the visitors. They were absolutely magnificent. I have occasion to visit secondary and college level campuses and am sorry to say that my impression at the schools fail miserably to match what I observed at these ceremonies. There is an old expression that starts with - "Ah you should have been in the Old Corps." I am here to say that if these young people had been in the Old Corps, --- the Old Corps would have been a lot better.  
 Semper Fi, Merle R. Likins



Dear Florence, Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$25; \$10 dues and \$15 operating expenses. My home is in Marine territory. As a volunteer at our local nursing home, the History Place, I was aware there was no mention of Marines or their history. I recently gave them my husband's 6th Marine Division's uniform and a write up of his battles (Pelileu and Okinawa). Now a lady Marine has given us her overcoat and cap. I'm proud to say we now have a very attractive exhibit and it gathers much attention. Cora Joslyn Mereness (Mrs.

William E.) Morehead City, NC 28557



Dear Mrs. Dornan, I apologize for the "tardy check" enclosed of \$20. Due to severe "ongoing" medical problems, I have been unable to drive, fly and unable to attend any reunions (college, military, etc.) for decades. Sincerely and Semper Fidelis!!! Donald P. Lewis, 187 Union St., So. Weymouth, MA 02190-2854



Dear Editor, I have a story that Bill Pierce might like. Although I did not know Bill, I might have had something of his. I signed up Dec. 8, 41 into the Marines. After Boot Camp I was sent to 5-P-10 at Camp Elliott. Was there about 4 months, then to the 22nd being made up at that time. In July the 10 sailed to Samoa. I was with B Batt then transferred to H&S. While there the mail clerk gave me a package. The name on it was not a full name. The package looked like it had been in more than combat. It was really banged up. Although the name Pierce was on it, the first name and address was missing. The mail clerk said it's yours, take it. There were cookies and candy, most of it smashed up in crumbs. But my section went at it anyway. What was there was pretty good. So Bill, if you were on Samoa at that time, that gift could have been yours. I have seen your name in the Newsletter many times. So I

often wondered if that package was yours. Sorry but we just had to eat it. I am sending \$20 for the '07 newsletter and ten to go to Bill's (unreadable) for eating his goodies. Harry E. Pierce, B Battery - 22nd Marines - Semper Fi. Note from the Membership Manager: Since I am unable to split up a check received for the Association, I gave Harry E. Pierce two years on his Newsletter. It was worth a good story and Harry's clearing his conscience., however, Bill Pierce was in the 29th Marines and says he never got to Samoa. Flo



Dear Flo, I am one of the forgotten ones of H Co., 29. There were not too many of us left to tell the story. I wrote the Newsletter inquiring if any one had anything on H Co. (No answer.) I attended the Pensacola meeting; only about 8 guys were counted. Still in contact with Harry McKnight - he was a replacement. Ken Werdner (sic) passed away recently. I guess I was recognized one time - the Bronze Star with V for rescuing three Marines under fire. One is still living. I talked to Laura Lacey and found out two others were credited for what I told her. Anyway, thanks for listening to my gripes. Harry said that it was bad that a Marine that went all the way on Okie, win a Bronze Star and still not be counted. Benjamin F. Prophitt, H-3-29, 150 Mulberry Dr., Fortson, GA 31808-7033



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.

## Taps

NAME	UNIT	DATE OF DEATH
AMADIO, Louis N.	4th Marines	11/30/2006
BALAY, Benjamin C.	29th MAR-1-C	1/27/2007
BAUER, Hank (NM)	4th Marines	2/09/2007
BELT, Loyd I.	22nd MAR-3-M	3/13/2007
BROWN, John E.	29th MAR-HQ	11/08/2006
BURKE, Mary	Wife of James F. Burke	12/05/2006
CRANE, Earl H.	29th MAR-2-F	3/18/2007
CURTIN, David J.	22nd MAR-3-L	12/14/2006
DAVIS, Arthur V.	22nd MAR-2-E	1/28/2007
DODSON, Marcus D.	6th Marine Div.-HQ-Signal	1/09/2007
DYHRE, Jack V. (NM)	4th MAR-1-A	12/27/2006
EDMONDSON, Thomas (NM)	6th Marine Division	11/12/1991
FEILER, Jefferson B.	15th MAR-2-F	3/13/2007
FITCH, Herbert T.	15th MAR-1-C	7/18/2006
FLOCKER, Robert	4th MAR-3-K	Unknown
FRISTOE, Kenneth O.	22nd MAR-3-1	4/16/2000
HENSON, Billy G.	29th MAR-1-A	11/19/2006
HOUGHTALING, Donald	22nd MAR-3-HQ	11/15/2006
KELLY, Frank A.	4th MAR-2-E	3/24/2006
KIRTZ, Mary	Wife of Alvin L. Kirtz	3/04/2007
MARTIN, J. T.	15th MAR-H&S	12/07/2006
MATTERA, Joseph A.	29th MAR-2-E	1/08/2005
McGRATH, Dennis	22nd MAR-3-1 (Corpsman)	10/19/2006
MERRITT, Albert E.	22nd MAR-2-G	7/27/2006
NASE, Jean	Wife of Walter H. Nase	11/15/2006
O'BRIEN, Thomas H.	22nd MAR-2-E	1/04/2007
PETERSON, Richard E. (NM)	6th Marine Division	5/03/2001
POELMAN, Herman H.	4th MAR-2-HQ	10/02/2004
REED, Suzanne	Widow of Col. Van Reed (NM)	2/07/2007
RYAN, Kenneth	29th MAR-2-F	12/24/2006
SCHIESS, William T. (Rusty)	29th MAR-1-HQ	2/27/2007
SMITH, Joe H.	29th MAR-2-F	11/17/2006
SOULE, Gardner N.	6th Marine Div.-HQ-TQM	9/04/2006
SWIDERSKI, Bernard F.	15th MAR-4-H&S	8/07/2006
TIBBS, George T.	15th MAR-3-I	4/17/2006
WAGONER, George L. (NM)	6th Marine Division	Unknown
WATSON, Laura	Wife of Floyd Watson	7/16/2006

### 4th Marines Notice

2nd Battalion, 4th Marines  
Association Reunion (2/4).

**"The Magnificent Bastards!"**

All Marines, Corpsman, support,  
& attached personnel invited.

July 11-15, 2007  
North Charleston, S. C.

CONTACT: Bob MASTRION  
1040 Governors Road  
Mount Pleasant, S. C.

1-843-881-7586

E-mail: rmastrion@comcast.net

A Reunion of Old Marines By Joe Cornish  
They'd slipped through the fingers of time

There they all were, a sight to be seen,  
A dozen or more, just old Marines.  
Come back together like moths to a flame.  
Outwardly different, but inside the same.

All were still proud, though tattered and torn  
By toll and by time, by the grief that they'd borne.  
Many a year, how swiftly they'd passed,  
Yet still in their thoughts, the memories last.

Times now gone by, and what might have been,  
Back now together with comrades again.  
Once they'd been young, gallant and bold,  
Or so it would seem from the tales that they told.

Just for awhile they relived it all,  
Cannon and shrapnel, bullet and ball,  
Ladies and laughter, and bars in between.  
They all came together and saw the old scenes.

Then it was over, now they must return  
To wives and to families, a living to earn.  
But they'd been restored by all of those dreams,  
And, content in that comfort...  
They left as Marines.

Ed's Note: Cornish, a corporal navigator on a Marine PBJ  
(B-25 to the army) during the war is a friend of Bill Pierce and a  
prolific writer of poems.

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# 6th Marine Division Association

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**WINTER 2006**

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