

# STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



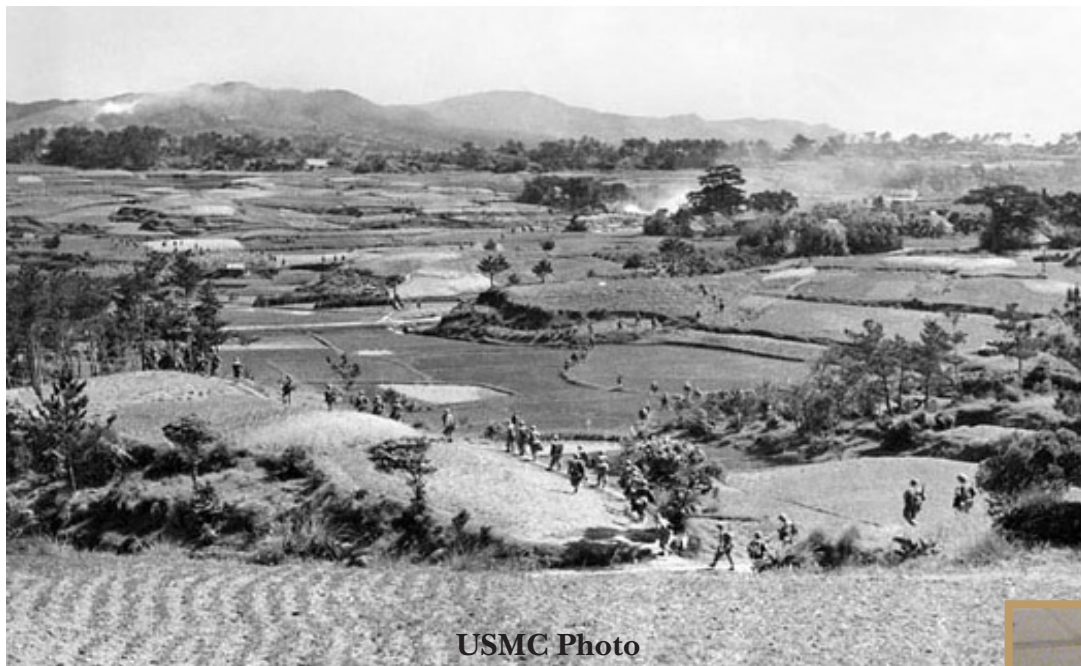
Vol. 35, No. 1

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

Spring 2010

## OKINAWA

65  
years  
ago



USMC Photo

Marines Move Inland.

Were You There Then?

Are You In The Photo?

See Those Hills to The  
South!

No One Knew What  
Was Hiding There.

## Reunion Plan Firing On Every Cylinder

### Here's the Good Word

This is Martin and Marilyn Essex, chairpersons giving you the good word. The reunion will be held here in Las Vegas, Nevada starting 10-10-10 at the Orleans Hotel.

Our Co-chairs, Joan Wilhauer and Pam Bloustine came to stay at the Orleans for a few days to check it out. Their report was as follows: Large clean rooms, very reasonably priced food, free parking, and free bus transportation every thirty minutes to the strip running twenty-

**Good Word** continued on page 7..

### Welcome to Reunion

My name is Robin Essex Starr. I am the 3rd and youngest daughter of Martin and Marilyn Essex. I am a member of the Sons and Daughters as are my sisters Bonnie and Joan, and my brother Rick. I live in Las Vegas not far from my parents, and work with my father on a daily basis at our business

I have the pleasure of being Editor Joe Singleton's "go to" person. I met Joe several months ago and am honored to work with him. He has a

**Welcome** continued on page 7..



Photo by Christina Smith

Marty and Marilyn Essex



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2009-2010  
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**USNS Comfort** — The Kamikaze targeted the Red Cross on her side. See Tom's article on Page 10.

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: joe.semperhorn@gmail.com

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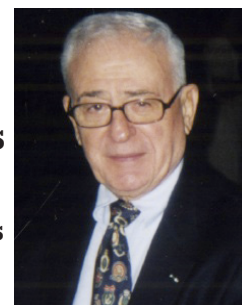
Joe Singleton, Chairman  
Tom Terpinas

### Membership Manager

Florence Dornan

## President's Report

By Tom Terpinas



Gentlemen of the Sixth Division: Congratulations on the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle for Okinawa, which you helped win. In addition, I suggest a moment or two in remembrance of those who didn't come back with us.

Also, congratulations to Marty Essex, together with his wife and children and the Merry Maids of Oklahoma, Joan, Brenda and Pam, who have put together what appears to be another Las Vegas Reunion winner.

We are working to effect a merger of Reunions with the Marine Raiders Assn. I am appointing a committee to further this effort. If

*continued on page 20.*

Striking Sixth

**THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSN**  
**2010 REUNION**  
**ORLEANS HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NV**  
**October 10-14, 2010**

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

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

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

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE:\_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL:\_\_\_\_\_

Single, Double, Occupancy: \$79 + tax per night (includes 2 free breakfasts per room)

Please check your preference \_\_\_King Bed \_\_\_Two Beds\_\_\_Smoking \_\_\_Non-Smoking\_\_\_HANDICAP

**Please complete this form and return it with a deposit in the amount of one night's lodging \$79. Pay by check or credit card to:**

**ORLEANS HOTEL AND CASINO**  
**4500 WEST TROPICANA AVE**  
**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89103**

Credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date\_\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

**To Register on Line: [www.orleanscasino.com/groups](http://www.orleanscasino.com/groups) Reservation ID: OMDAC10**

**Or: Call 1-888-365-3267 and be sure to say you are with the 6<sup>th</sup> MARINE DIVISION REUNION to secure the \$79.00 rate. Have your credit card handy. Rooms not guaranteed will be released at 6 pm on your arrival date.**

**Special Requests:** Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however they are not guaranteed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 1ST.** After that date, reservations will be taken on availability basis only. Cancellations will be accepted up to **72 HOURS** before arrival. One night's lodging (\$79.00) will be **CHARGED** if cancellation is after that time.

Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hotel check-in is 3:00 pm- check-out is noon

Go to [www.orleanscasino.com](http://www.orleanscasino.com) for additional hotel information.

**Don't wait until the last minute. Call, click or send in your reservations NOW to ensure availability!**



**Sixth Marine Division Association  
2010 Annual Reunion  
Sunday 10/10/10 – Thursday 10/14/10  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Register Early and Save \$5.00 – Must be postmarked By June 30, 2010:** \$20.00–early  
**After June 30, 2010:** \$25.00

Day	Time	Event	Amount
<b><u>Sunday</u></b> 10-10-10	12-5 pm	Registration (Member) (Spouses are free) Guests (No: _____ x \$ _____ ea.)	\$ _____ \$ _____
	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	6pm-9pm	Meet and Greet (appetizers and drinks) # _____	\$No Charge
<b><u>Monday</u></b> 10-11-10	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	9am-5pm	Registration Desk	
	9:30am-5:30pm	Gray Line Deluxe Red Rock Tour \$70.00 x _____ = (Buffet Lunch included at Marriott Hotel)	\$ _____
	10am-2pm	Las Vegas Outlet Mall Shopping \$12.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b> 10-12-10	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	9am-5pm	Registration Desk	
	7:30am-4pm	Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) (Box lunch included) Must be 14 yrs of age (No wheelchairs) Some walking Available to the first 57 sign ups \$20.00 x _____ = Full Name, incl. middle initial _____ Date & Place of Birth _____ Home Address _____ Citizenship _____ (Above is needed for AEC – use additional paper if necessary)	\$ _____
	10am- 1pm	Atomic Energy Museum \$20.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> 10-13-10	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	9am-5pm	Registration Desk	
	12:30pm-2:15pm	Board Meeting	
	12-2pm	Ladies Luncheon \$25.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
	2:30-4pm	Sons and Daughters Meeting	
	4:30- until	Marine Corps League BBQ \$20.00 x _____ = (Buses will be staggered – sign up for the bus at Registration Desk)	\$ _____

## REUNION REGISTRATION FORM – Page 2

<b>Thursday</b>	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
10-14-10	11:30am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	Closed	Registration Desk (All information moved to Hospitality Room)	
	10am-11:30am	Memorial Service	
	1pm-3pm	General Meeting	
	6pm-11pm	Grand Banquet-Dinner-Guest Speaker-Installation of Officers-Dancing-Entertainment \$49.00 x_____	\$_____

**Grand Total Enclosed for Registration and Activities** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check payable to 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association 2010 Reunion to:

**Martin or Marilyn Essex, 2712 Lotus Hill, Las Vegas, NV 89134 Phone: 702-243-9603**

**May we suggest that you make a copy of the registration for your records & bring it with you to the Reunion.**

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### CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOU:

\_\_\_\_\_Attending my 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion      \_\_\_\_\_I am a Son/Daughter      \_\_\_\_\_Wheelchair Bound (will need a lift)

\_\_\_\_\_Mobility Impaired (cane/walker)      Special Needs (specify)\_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_Will be helping out      \_\_\_\_\_Will bring Door Prize (donors will be announced-please label)

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### Your Travel Plans for Our Records

Will be arriving to Las Vegas, Nevada by\_\_\_\_\_ (mode of transportation)

If traveling by air: \_\_\_\_\_  
Airline      Flight #      Departure City      Date/Time of Arrival

**\*PLEASE NOTE:**      There will be no pickup service by the Reunion Committee for arrivals later than 10:00 pm. You will have to make bus arrangements.

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**If you have a name badge holder from the 2008 reunion in Oklahoma, please bring it.**

**HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY TO AND FROM THE REUNION.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

# Lineal Descendants Meeting Report

## October 2009 at Myrtle Beach, SC

At this year's Sons and Daughters Meeting, (or Lineal Descendants as adopted last year) the best news we could have asked for was given to us. Mrs. Connie Haynes Houseweart started the meeting by greeting us all — old and new — and introducing Mr. Martin Essex, Past Association President, who wished to speak to us.

Mr. Essex gave us a brief but heartfelt review of the history of the sons and daughters as an "organized" group. He spoke of how firmly he believed in our existence for the good of the Association.

After Mr. Essex's summary, another Marine and "son of," Mr. Robert McGowan, addressed us. He explained that after 2 years of intense negotiations between lawyers, advisors and Association officers, especially Mr. Sam Petriello, Judge Advocate, the Association has re-incorporated. It was dissolved in New Jersey and reformed under Pennsylvania law, again as a non-profit group, but with an historical and education rationale. In doing so, the Association now allows full voting membership to dues paying lineal descendants. This important news led, of course, to many ideas and comments about the future of the Association and our role in it.

Since the full membership might not have been fully aware of our changed status this year, Bob McGowan suggested that out of courtesy we not attend the general meeting the next day. We all agreed to that. After all, we want to help with and smooth the path of the reunions, not act as speed bumps and potholes! Mrs. Bonnie Essex Hillegass ran over a few organizational points for us to consider. She suggested Connie Houseweart carry on as chair of the descendants "committee" and there were no objections.

The meeting then turned to how we might help next year in Las Vegas, NV. The Essex family is hosting the event, but would like the lineal descendants to help. A review of facts

about the 2010 event was given and some "assignments" were handed out: The Aasland-Woodhouse crew will look into specialty merchandisers, the Benedetti sisters will handle the registration tables, Connie Houseweart will head up a to-be-formed hospitality room committee, and most especially, we are all to keep the lines of communication open this year!

As a final order of business, Connie asked Marty to step outside the meeting room. We were then asked to vote as to whether or not Marty should be our Advisor. When he was asked to come back in, unanimously, we had given him his wish!

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### Grandfather Opened His Eyes, Smiled And Then Never Opened Them Again

Hi Mr. Pierce: My name is Kristy Vaughn and my Grandfather, Hercules "Klee" Tassiopulos, was in the 6th Marine Division during WWII. He had his own band back then and would play all over for the troops.

He tells us some really great stories, always talks about Guadalcanal and how his brother Gus would fly onto the beach just to drop off food and booze for the guys in his division (his brother was an Officer). He is now 91 years old and is still a tough Marine but is battling cancer. His doctor unfortunately misdiagnosed his "toothache" and come to find out he is Stage 4 jaw cancer and it now has spread. The doctors are giving him only about 3-6 months. We want to make this a Christmas to remember this year and wanted to find some things either new or from that time frame that relates to his service in the Marines. I am also trying to find items to give as presents, a picture of his troops or even just a blanket with the Marine logo on it. You being in public relations, I thought maybe you could steer me in the right direction. I would rather

our money go to the Marines than to some online collectors warehouse if you know what I mean. Do you know if the Marines ever give out awards for service posthumously? By that I mean after service has ended not after life has ended. To date, I don't think he has ever received an award or noteworthy mention and he fought hard then and is fighting even harder now. "Once a Marine always a Marine!" If you don't know where I could find items or know about the awards that is ok too. I appreciate you just taking the time to read my email. If we don't speak I hope you have a wonderful holiday this year. With warm regards, Kristy.

Hi Bill: I wanted to thank you sooner for the items you sent but I was not available until now. You have no idea how much you have touched my heart and my family's. I opened the tube you sent and almost had to leave the office because I could not stop crying. I took the poster home to have my husband laminate it (wasn't enough time to have it framed) and that night my Grandfather was rushed to Hospice. He made it to his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday and died the day after Christmas. I brought your items to Hospice to show him, he smiled and closed his eyes and was not able to open them after that. You guys were all with him at that moment every soldier that has ever served our great country, especially you, Bill, with your gifts that will now live on forever in the mind's eye of another fallen Marine. He may be gone but he will never be forgotten, and we (my family and I) will never forget how you touched all of our lives with these gifts that meant more than the world at that frozen moment in time. You brought Christmas to Hospice December, 2009 and it will be a Christmas we will never forget. We had a military burial for him and when the Marines played taps and folded the flag I thought about you and your gifts and how much it meant to him and my family. Not that I can but if there is anything I can ever do for you please don't hesitate to call me or write.

**Semper Fi**, Kristy Vaughn, CUBRC, 4455 Genesee St., Buffalo, NY 14225, (716) 204-5136, vaughn@cubrc.org.

## Good Word *continued from page 1..*

four hours a day.

We will have private cars picking you up at the airport and bringing you to the hotel at no charge. We will need your flight information including; time of arrival, flight number and city of departure, to verify flights and make sure that someone is there to pick you up at baggage. If you have a change in your flight or you will be late arriving, we ask you call Lisa Michael of the Woman's Marine Association at 702-289-8165 to advise her the correct time. Communication is key in order to insure that you are not left behind. If you prefer to take a Gray Line bus to the hotel, the cost is \$6.50 each person. Please call 702-739-5700 for reservations.

During your stay, we have made arrangements with Gray Line Tours to offer you several different tours around the Las Vegas area. We will have informational brochures at the reunion registration desk.

Come one, come all! Have fun, eat well. Don't miss the best reunion we have ever had. Between Lineal Descendants, Women Marines, and our co-chairs, ...how can we go wrong?

Semper Fi,  
Martin Essex  
Marilyn Essex

P.S. Please note that on the registration form, you will see a tour to the Atomic Energy Conservation, which is located at the Nevada Test Site. There are a few restrictions. If you are a foreign national, it will take six weeks to process your paperwork as a non US citizen. Articles prohibited on this tour are cameras, cell phones, weapons and controlled substances. The charge for this event is \$25.00 per person including a boxed lunch. We can only send 57 people. There will be some walking and getting off and on the bus. No wheel chairs and no one under 14 years of age is permitted. If you are interested, sign up early.

## Welcome *continued from page 1..*

big job with the "Striking Sixth," and I hope I am able to make him proud. He certainly is a kind and thoughtful man, who takes pride in his work.

Here in Las Vegas, we are busy getting ready to welcome those of you who will be coming to the Reunion held in the "entertainment capital of the world." I am sure that you have heard that the Runion starts on 10-10-10 and ends on the evening of 10-14-10. Although the Reunion committee has planned many tours and events in which we hope you participate, there will be much for you to do on your own. We will have tour information available for you at the registration desk. If you are interested in booking a show on one of the free evenings, you can go to <http://www.vegas.com/shows/> or call 1.888.527.8342. Ladies, we hope you will join us for a very lovely luncheon on Wednesday. With the special touch that my mother has added, you will be pleasantly surprised.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the reunion. I wish you a pleasant and safe journey to Las Vegas.

Are we allowed to say ....  
Semper Fi, Robin Starr

## Last Flag Raiser Semestis Passes

The fourth and final member of the Sixth Marine Division, who raised the last flag of WWII on Okinawa, passed away last year. Sam Semestis from Philadelphia, Pa. Sam was predeceased by Noralin West, Orange, CA in 1981, Joseph M Bangert, Sr (Corpsman) in 1988 and Dan Dereschuck, Santa Rosa, CA in 2005.

These men of G-2-22 landed on the beach, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1945. After 82 days of front line fighting they were sent by Lt. Mitchel Zampkos to raise a US flag on what ever they could find on the hill they had just secured. It became one of the most memorable events of their lives, but was seldom spoken about. They would reluctantly admit they raised the flag on Okinawa in 1945, under sniper fire with the support of a fire ring. Due to their courage and endeavor the Sixth Division had the final flag raising of WWII.

Our new Chaplain Harry McKnight will address the Auxiliary at the luncheon meeting in Las Vegas. The offer was gladly accepted by the Auxiliary President, Marion Bangert, widow of the flag raiser, Joseph Bangert, Corpsman.



**6<sup>th</sup> Corpsmen at Myrtle Beach** — From left, Donald J. Peterson, David W. Titus, Oscar Soifer, Paul W. Smith, Rocco Lospinuso, Paul E. Judd and Jack Rice.



# Photographic Scenes From Reunion 2009



*Clifton and Shirley Barker*



*Dolores Bertram and Alberta Bledsoe*



*Emory Ashurst and Lt. Col. Duane Opperman, Our Speaker*



*Harry Bertram and Joe T. Bledsoe*

*Photos by Christina Smith*



# More Photographs From Myrtle Beach



*Top Left, Cal and Bonnie O'Roarke; Bill Scanner, Divison Photographer and Daughter Christina Smith and her mother Minnie Belle Sanner; Center, This trio kept the Day Room going, but since we can't name all three, we won't name any. Bottom Row from left, hanging out in the hall outside the Day Room are Charles Finch and Bert Richards. To the right is Mary Walker.*

*Photos by Christina Smith*

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Marine's Luck Was Bad and Good

By Tom Terpinas



**This kamakazi** — was headed for a different ship off Okinawa, but this must have been what it looked like to the crew of the Comfort moments before it was hit.

## 2 Hospital Ships

Heavy action in the south of Okinawa had developed as April wore on, but the north end of the island wasn't exactly a walk in the park for the Sixth Marine Division. Since the almost combat-free landing on April 1, the Sixth Division had covered a lot of ground while heading north and seeking out whatever Japanese troops could be found there.

While the main Japanese defensive effort was determined to be in the south where three U.S. Army divisions and the First Marine Division were tackling them, the Marines of the Sixth were fighting their way through ambushes and many weary miles of picking them up and setting them down. Their feet weren't the only thing that hurt, though. Casualties were mounting.

One of these wounded Marines was Hal Stanley, C-1-22, who was unlucky enough to be in the vicinity of an exploding knee mortar round on April 24. Hurt badly enough for hospitalization, he was taken to the beach and out to the USNS Comfort (AH-6), one of the Navy's



**The Comfort** — is shown here under steam.

hospital ships on station. He and his fellow casualties were waved off. The Comfort was full up with wounded. There was no room left at the inn. The island had become extremely dangerous by this time despite the lack of earlier defensive effort by the Japanese.

Hal ended up on the USNS Relief (AH-1), a hospital ship commissioned in 1917, unaware that his luck had changed from bad to good.

The Comfort was a naval vessel with medical personnel from the army. Commissioned in 1943, she had already taken one full load of wounded to Guam as had Relief, which returned to station on April 22. The Comfort returned on April 23 and was already full when Hal was turned away. The battle, which would last until June 22, was taking a steady toll.

On April 28 the Comfort was 30 miles out to sea heading toward Guam. On that same day, the emperor's birthday, the Japanese regular air forces and kamikazes struck the sea lanes from Okinawa to the Marianas with up to 200 airplanes. One of them was a kamikaze that apparently lined up on the large red cross decorating Comfort's hull. The plane struck just over that emblem, its engine ending up in the operating room, where everyone was a casualty but the patient on the operating table.

Altogether 28 died, six of them nurses, 64 were injured and the ship was badly damaged but managed to make it to the Marianas. Hal was aboard Relief, which arrived untouched, and had some luck for the Marine after all.

## Sixth's Capture of Yontan Airfield

Jack Dornan, F-2-4, says, in referring to the Page One photo of Marines Moving Inland, "It was a long time ago" but his recollection is that the capture of Yontan Airfield was the first order of business for the Sixth Division after the unopposed landing on Red Beaches 1, 2 and 3. The 22nd landed to the north on Green Beaches, 1, 2, and 3. The 29th was in reserve.

The schedule called for the airfield to be captured within 72 hours, he said. "The Fourth Marines captured it in less than 72 minutes." He added that he would never know if he was in the photo. It is hard to tell who was who in those tiny figures pictured as the Marines took off across country on the days following the airport's capture.





Laura Lacey

## 65 Years Later, Recognition Continues To Grow of Marines' Role in the Pacific

By Laura Lacey

### Sixth Marine Division Historian

Today is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 (the day of this writing) and it is the perfect day to reflect on the 6th Marine Division's place in history. For me personally, it marks a sad passing, on this day nine years ago we lost a beloved member of the Division, and my personal hero, James Chaisson, N.C., (Navy Cross). For many of you tomorrow (April 1) has become the day to raise a glass or pray and think of comrades then and now. Hopefully you also think about the legacy that the "greatest generation" leaves. The past ten years have been an important time for many of you. You have learned to finally openly acknowledge your place in history and accept thanks from a grateful nation.

On April 1, 1945, L-Day, members of the Sixth Marine Division landed on a small Pacific island, Okinawa Shima, 350 miles from mainland Japan. The next eighty-two days would be defining moments in those young men's lives. Many knew all about Pacific landings, men like Richard "Heavy" Pfuhl, George Tremblay, and Paolo "Paulie" DeMeis. For others it would be their first, and in many cases, their only experience with "the world within war," men like Don Honis and James White. Others, after the war, like Tom McKinney, Harry McKnight and George "Speedy" Gaspard would continue to serve in the armed forces. They came from many different backgrounds, and levels of education; they were from the North and the South, city kids and farmers' sons. What they had in common was that they were in the prime of their lives, they were Americans\*, and members of the finest fighting force in the history of the world—they were United States Marines.

Many of those young men would never leave Okinawa alive and as live veterans

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continuously remind the uninitiated, they are the real heroes. Yet the Sixth also provided its share of recognized heroes: men like James Day, M.H. (Medal of Honor), Richard Bush, M.H., Henry A. Courtney Jr., M.H. and Robert McTureous, M.H., inspire the current generation of Marines with their valor. Additionally, there were daily acts of bravery by men who were never recognized and it can be argued that surviving Okinawa itself was a feat for only the brave.

For years it felt like the Pacific Theater and the Marines were the forgotten children. Each year as D-Day was commemorated at Normandy many of you grumbled about your almost unknown D-day (L-day). Even Iwo Jima became a source of rancor for some of you—one picture seeming to overshadow the names of places like Sugar Loaf and Motobu. Most of the time however, it was just the way it was—you really didn't want or ask for the recognition.

In fact since the Battle of Okinawa, sixty-five years ago, those of you who survived the "typhoon of steel" have buried your wounds (both visible and hidden) and went on to live your lives. You became husbands, parents and the generation who volunteered—you humbly looked at life as a new beginning—a second chance. In most cases you kept your war to yourself.

\* Many immigrants also served, they may not have been American born but they were American!

Yet historical perspective has caught up with "the greatest generation" and in the last ten years, a new understanding and appreciation has grown for the Second World War and its participants. Movies like *Saving Private Ryan* and television series like *Band of Brothers* paved the way. A crowning achievement for the WWII generation was the dedication (which many of you attended) of the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C.

The Pacific Theater and the Sixth have also stepped out of the shadows. This month a new HBO series will focus on the Pacific Theater. The Battle of Okinawa Exhibit on Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan teaches this generation about Okinawa's place in history. There

have been History Channel specials that have described the Striking Sixth's part in "the bloodiest battle in the Pacific" and the Division's unique history is finally recognized and appreciated with books like *Tennozan*, *Killing Ground on Okinawa*, and *Stay off the Skyline*. The Sixth has claimed its place in history in places like the Punch Bowl Cemetery on Hawaii, at the new National Museum of the Marine Corps and ten years ago this month at the dedication of the Sixth Marine Division Memorial. This unique monument, with its symbolic Okinawan tomb shape, is located at the National Cemetery, Quantico, Virginia. Its location helps ensure the unit's place in history, as it will be seen by many Marines, and friends of Marines, who pass through, the "crossroads of the Marine Corps." It is an example of the Association's commitment to keeping the Sixth Division's place in Marine Corps memory.

Likewise as an organization, you have secured a legacy in other ways. You have finally begun to share your stories with children and grandchildren, with Marines, school groups and reporters; recognizing at last, that history must be shared, not for your own glorification, but so that story is told correctly and remembered as you would have it remembered. You have brought onboard sons and daughters to help perpetuate the memories of those who never came home and of the Striking Sixth. The situation is well in hand, now "just stay off the skyline."



**Taking a Break** — .81 mortarmen from I-4 on Okinawa. Perry Roddy, Willie Hare, Bill Yunker, Bill Peasley, Curtis Hawley, Paul St. Martin.





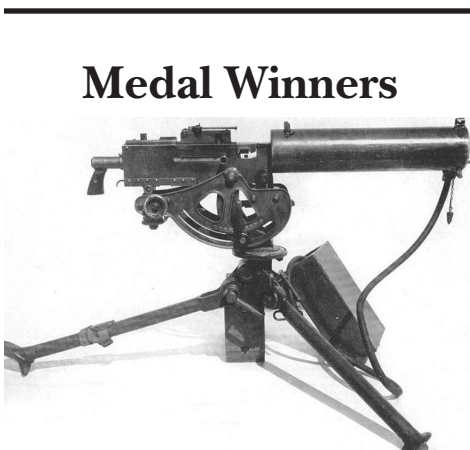
## Standing By for Decorations

— These awards were not for Okinawa. These nine Marines of the Fifth Regiment were in Australia following the Guadalcanal Campaign. This photo was brought to our attention because there should be room in any newsletter of our kind for a true Marine Legend. Note the old guy on the right, the one with the goatee. Is he the legendary mortar man par excellence? The one and only Master Gunnery Sergeant Lou Diamond? Yes, indeed,

fresh from the Solomon Islands battlefield. This classic Marine may or may not have landed on the 'Canal with two canteens full of gin, maybe he dropped an '81 round down the stack of a Jap destroyer or maybe not, but we know one thing for sure, he wouldn't know or care about the uniform of the day any more than he was impressed by the Japanese army. He also appears to be at his own version of attention. USMC Photo.



**Defending Yontan** — taken the first morning of the landing by the Sixth Marine Division, the airfield was later the scene of a Japanese aircraft landing there by mistake and by a commando raid that resulted in significant damage. There were bombing attacks as well. This photo shows the night sky when all three defending Marine anti-aircraft battalions opened up as enemy aircraft approached. USMC Photo.



**1919AI Browning Machine Gun** — Water-cooled. It served well in World War II, especially in defensive positions, and helped win at least two Medals of Honor. It was discontinued after the war by the U.S. but served export markets for years thereafter.



**1919A4 Browning Machine Gun** — Air-cooled. It was much easier to haul around, and with the same action as the water-cooled gun, it used the same .30 cal ammunition. There is also a .50 caliber Browning with a similar but larger action that is still used today. It was not a rifle company weapon, at least in World War II and Korea.

Both .30 cal. weapons had similar parts. They had different tripods, but each could mount on the other's tripod. They were very reliable but did have breakdowns and a gunner had to fire short bursts to keep barrels from overheating. The three Medal of Honor winners whose commendations are being retold on these pages all had machine guns as the backbone of their defenses. At least two of them were able to keep guns in action despite malfunctions.

Their nights almost defy belief. It was dark, they were alone or almost, the Japs had overrun positions in front and on both sides and the dead and wounded were everywhere. The guns broke down. You could count on that. Somehow, by feel, while getting shot at, they determined the problems, field stripped the weapons, replaced parts and barrels and put the weapons back in service.

— The Editor

# Tom Hanks Explains His View of WWII

**“Back in World War II, we viewed the Japanese as ‘yellow, slant-eyed dogs’ that believed in different gods,” he told the magazine. “They were out to kill us because our way of living was different. We, in turn, wanted to annihilate them because they were different. Does that sound familiar, by any chance, to what’s going on today?”**

Hanks then followed this on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” with Joe Scarborough where he said:

**“‘The Pacific’ is coming out now, where it represents a war that was of racism and terror. And where it seemed as though the only way to complete one of these battles on one of these small specks of rock in the middle of nowhere was to – I’m sorry – kill them all. And, um, does that sound familiar to what we might be going through today? So it’s— is there anything new under the sun? It seems as if history keeps repeating itself.”**

Ed’s Note: Tom Hanks, noted actor, is also one of the producers of the HBO series, “The Pacific.”

## “OLD DOUBLE DEUCE”

(Dedicated to the men of the 22d Marines)

By Frank Embry, HQ-2-22

“Old ‘Double-Deuce’ is on the loose!” It was our battle-cry. “We shall prevail, we will not fail, When lead begins to fly!”

Amid the yells, the smoke and shells By light of sun or flare; The stubborn foe did surely know That ‘Double-Deuce’ was there!

On rock and mud, our comrades’

blood Was shed while battle roared. Our nation’s treasure: their last full measure With full devotion poured.

On mercy bent, the ‘corpsmen’ went Where wounded men were lying, And ‘Holy Joe’ was never slow With comfort for the dying.

To Guam’s warm shore we sailed once more, Where we could rest a spell Awards, for sure, that shall endure For those who fought thru Hell.

We sailed, to land on China’s strand. (By then, the war was won.) Another use for ‘Double-Deuce’. Another job well done

And when at last, all battles past, Our colors proudly furled. For victories won, the word: “Well Done!” Acknowledged by the world!

‘Tis long since then, our ranks are thin, For Time must take its toll. Thus fewer and fewer you may be sure, Say “Here!” to muster-roll

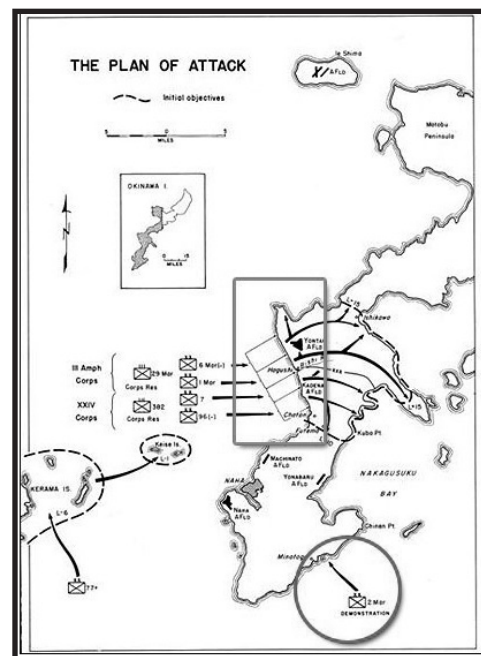
A toast once more, to times of yore; Ere Death our spirits loose: Our glasses raise to olden days, To men of ‘Double-Deuce’!

**“THEY WILL LIVE A LONG TIME THESE MEN OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THEY HAD AN AMERICAN QUALITY. THEY, LIKE THEIR VICTORIES, WILL BE REMEMBERED AS LONG AS OUR GENERATION LIVES. AFTER THAT, LIKE THE MEN OF THE CONFEDERACY, THEY WILL BECOME STRANGERS. LONGER AND LONGER SHADOWS WILL OBSCURE THEM, UNTIL THEIR BATTLE SOUNDS DISTANT ON THE EAR...LIKE SHILOH AND VALLEY FORGE.”**

**JAMES A MITCHNER  
TALES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC**



While the Troops Were Struggling — the Navy wasn’t having a fun time... The Kamikazi toll on one day, April 16, was Carrier Intrepid, 10 KIA, 87 WIA; Destroyer Bryant 34 KIA, 33 WIA; Destroyer Laffey, 31 KIA, 72 WIA; Destroyer Bowers, 48 KIA, 58 WIA; Mine Sweeper Hobson, 4 KIA, 8 WIA; Destroyer Pringle, 65 KIA, 110 WIA. The Marines, Army and Navy had another 77 days to go.



**Plan of Attack** — The 2<sup>nd</sup> MarDiv feinted a landing in the southeast, circle, while two Marine Divisions, 6<sup>th</sup> northernmost, 1<sup>st</sup> just to the south, and two Army divisions would invade “amidships” on the western shore, rectangle. Map by Wikipedia.

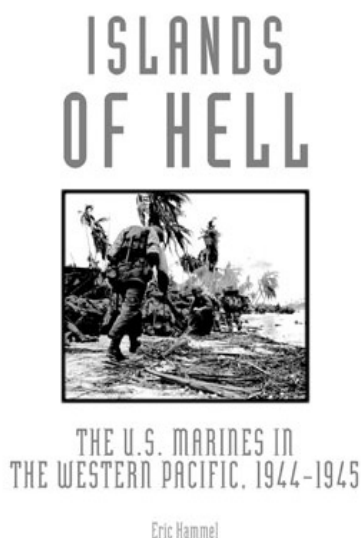


The Battle of Okinawa was a long one, lasting 82 days. The Sixth Marine Division had nearly 1700 Marines and Navy Medical Corpsmen who were killed in action or died of wounds, with more than 7400 being wounded in action. It has been said that when a military unit suffers ten percent casualties it loses its effectiveness. Such was not the case in the Sixth Marine Division. The highest casualty rates were in the rifle companies, many of which were reduced to the level of under strength platoons, with non commissioned officers commanding them. While being nowhere near as effective as when at full strength, these under strength units were still coherent Marine Companies and still fighting.

Any Marine believes that his unit is the best, and this is as it should be. But the Sixth Marine Division was at least the equal of any Marine division that fought in the Pacific Theater in World War Two. The Division was decorated with the Presidential Unit Citation for heroism on the Island of Okinawa. Requirements for the award of that decoration are that the unit as a whole performed in a manner that would have merited the Navy Cross Medal to an individual Marine.

After the Japanese surrender, the Sixth Marine Division, less the 4th Marines, sailed to Tsingtao, China to accept the surrender of the Japanese there. The 4th Marines went to Japan. The division occupied Tsingtao until April 1, 1946. On that date, the division, downsized by the loss of many of its Marines who had returned to the United States, was designated as the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade. One year to the day after its landing on the Island of Okinawa, the Sixth Marine Division had ceased to be.

James S. White, G-3-29



### **HBO and "Islands of Hell" Tell Marines' Side of Pacific War**

This seemed like a good time to think about the Battle of Okinawa. It was fought 65 years ago. Every five years is not a bad time to give it some extra thought. The HBO TV channels will be featuring it after dealing with earlier Pacific battles first. Then there is "Islands of Hell," a coffee table size book being plugged right now. It is subtitled "The U.S. Marines in the Western Pacific, 1944-45."

Written by Eric Hammel, who has written multitudes of books about the war and whose father was a GI on Okinawa, it includes an overview of battles fought by Marines of the Sixth Division, including Saipan and Guam before there was a Sixth Division. Mainly, though, it is a picture book. Our cover photo this issue is found on Page 209 of the book's coverage of the Okinawa Campaign.

The book costs \$50, so how did I get hold of it? It just arrived in the mail one day. There was no cover letter, no request for a plug in the newsletter. I suspect it is somehow connected to the HBO series, but it doesn't matter, I like it, I'm going to keep it.

The HBO series on the Marines'

war may not turn out to have the impact of the "Band of Brothers" take on the European War. I watched the first two episodes. They seemed pretty good to me but far from dazzling. In the first episode, a Marine kills a lot of the enemy with a machine gun. Ditto in the second, only this time the Marine is Sgt. John Basilone, the first hero of the war unless you count Colin Kelly.

Basilone and Platoon Sgt. Mitchell Paige won two of the four Congressional Medals of Honor awarded during the initial Guadalcanal Campaign. They both were named official heroes about the same time, though Basilone got most of the glory, for doing essentially the same things: holding out against powerful Japanese attacks.

To my knowledge, which I'll admit is limited, the next time the MOH was awarded for a similar action, which another Marine survived, was on Sugar Loaf Hill involving the 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines' Cpl. James Day. (Read the commendations.) Except that Jim Day had to hold out longer and only had one light machine gun, you can almost substitute one for another.

There was one major difference from Basilone's. Day's MOH came so late, when heroes weren't so much in demand, that hardly anyone seemed to notice, and I don't much think he will be on HBO.

The Editor

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'If the enemy is in range, so are you.

- Infantry Journal

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'It is generally inadvisable to eject over the area you just bombed'

- U.S. Air Force Manual

Striking Sixth



**John Basilone**



**SERGEANT  
JOHN BASILONE  
UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following  
**CITATION:**

For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Lunga Area, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on 24 and 25 October 1942. While the enemy was hammering at the Marines' defensive positions, Sgt. Basilone, in charge of 2 sections of heavy machine guns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sgt. Basilone's sections, with its gun crews, was put out of action, leaving only 2 men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived. A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sgt. Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.[4]

**Mitchell Paige**



**PLATOON SERGEANT  
MITCHELL PAIGE  
UNITED STATES  
MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following  
**CITATION:**

For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division, in combat against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands Area on October 26, 1942. When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position, Platoon Sergeant Paige, commanding a machine-gun section with fearless determination, continued to direct the fire of his gunners until all his men were either killed or wounded. Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he manned his gun, and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire against the advancing hordes until reinforcements finally arrived. Then, forming a new line, he dauntlessly and aggressively led a bayonet charge, driving the enemy back and preventing a break through in our lines. His great personal valor and unyielding devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.[5]

**Medal of Honor**



**James L. Day**



**CORPORAL  
JAMES L. DAY  
UNITED STATES MARINE  
CORPS RESERVE**

for service as set forth in the following  
**CITATION:**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a squad leader serving with the Second Battalion, Twenty-Second Marines, Sixth Marine Division, in sustained combat operations against Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands from 14 to 17 May 1945. On the first day, Corporal Day rallied his squad and the remnants of another unit and led them to a critical position forward of the front lines of Sugar Loaf Hill. Soon thereafter, they came under an intense mortar and artillery barrage that was quickly followed by a fanatical ground attack of about forty Japanese soldiers. Despite the loss of one-half of his men, Corporal Day remained at the forefront, shouting encouragement, hurling hand grenades, and directing deadly fire thereby repelling the determined enemy. Reinforced by six men, he led his squad in repelling three fierce night attacks but suffered five additional Marines killed and one wounded whom he assisted to safety. Upon hearing nearby calls for corpsman assistance, Corporal Day braved heavy enemy fire to escort four seriously wounded Marines, one at a time, to safety. Corporal Day then manned a light machine gun assisted by a wounded Marine, and halted another frenzied night attack. In this ferocious action, his machine gun was destroyed, and he suffered multiple white phosphorus and fragmentation

*continued on page 20..*  
15

Dear Editor: This Friday, April 1, marks the 65th anniversary of our landing on Okinawa, a Sunday morning that was Easter Sunday and April Fools Day. I think often of the many members who gave their utmost to preserve our freedoms, and only hope they didn't give their lives in vain, as we see our freedoms gradually fade away. God Bless all of them and God Bless the few of us that still remain. Semper Fi Vince DiPentima, 6thMarDiv, [vdipentima@cfl.rr.com](mailto:vdipentima@cfl.rr.com)

★

Sirs: I would like to know if there are any former members who were in L-3-22 (later the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines) from the Fall of '44 to the Spring of '46. I would like to hear from them. I also would like to know how to find out where Marines buried at Okinawa Cemetery and later returned to the States for reburial were buried. Thank you, Karl W. Brothers, PO Box 66, Bath, OH 441210.

★

Mr. Sams, Martin Mary Kelly, that is my grandfather. Thank you for sending me the email. I never got a chance to meet him, as he passed away when my father was young. Do you by chance have any memories or stories about him, and if not, know of anyone who might? Like I said before, I never got a chance to meet him, so I am trying to gather as much information about him as possible, which I can share with my father and uncle. Again, thank you

for the email and for your service, it means a lot to me when I hear from somebody that might have known my grandfather. Kieran Kelly

★

Bill Pierce: Sir, Ref: information on Pvt, Matthew J. Reese, Company K, 3rd Batallion, 22nd Marines. Sugar Loaf Hill, Okinawa, May 15 1945.

Any information or contacts with this Campaign would put to rest our questions of that tragic battle that took so many lives of our heroic Marines that sacrificed their Blood and Tears for our Country in time of great need for survival in a torn apart world. My name is Richard A. Reese, Matthew's younger brother. Matthew received one citation from the President and another from the U.S. Navy. He also was awarded the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. Matthew was discharged honorably in 1945 and was in veterans care center for over 25 years because of injuries and shock treatments. He passed away in 1994 of natural causes. Any history or contacts of the activity, people or other events of record would be appreciated to achieve closure with this event in his life. Thank You, Richard A. Reese. E-Mail: [daddio@frontiernet.net](mailto:daddio@frontiernet.net)

★

Dear Joe, The enclosed picture is one of me just leaving the Mayflower Steps in Plymouth Sound, Devonshire, England in 1970 when I took a sabbatical to get over mid-life crisis and sailed solo North Trans-Atlantic to Plymouth Rock, Mass. It was a 55 day voyage and was to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. A sure cure for mid-life crisis but not recommended to all! Four other voyages to Southern Europe, Africa and South America followed. With warm regards and best wishes to you and all our comrades, Neal McCallum, Fox 29, 60 mm Mortar Section.



Neal and His Boat

★

Greetings Mr. Pierce, My name is James Chance Wilson and I was named after Corporal James Wilson of the U.S. Marines. Ironically enough, I was born exactly 40 years after the initial landing of Okinawa: April 1st. My grandfather found this quite surprising seeing how he was one of the few members of his squad to survive, so it had somewhat of a sentimental aspect to it for him. I believe this occurrence about him being the sole survivor was after his ascension of Sugar Loaf Hill. He said that he ran up and down that hill a total of 5 times, carrying a BAR with him all the while. "The gun was so powerful that I would slide back in the mud as I fired it," he'd later recall. He was a smaller individual, about my height build: 5'9 140lbs. (My dad's always going on about how much I resemble him.) After he would reach the near-summit, he would have to retreat back down. Much to his disliking, I'm sure. He had to keep going back up because most of the other people that went with him died. Upon finding out the news of my birth, especially considering that I was due a week earlier, my dad's father replied: "No, he wasn't born on April Fool's Day; he was born on Okinawa Day." I turned 25 today and all in all it was a good birthday. And whenever I think something isn't going particularly swell, I simply think about what my grandfather had to endure for days, weeks, and months at a time, especially at Okinawa. I was looking through your web site and saw the picture of Bush, the Medal of Honor recipient. Actually, my grandfather was good friends with him and I have a note signed by him. On another

## Mail Call

note my grandfather told my dad a story about shooting a Japanese pilot as he stood on the edge of his Zero's wing. This was after a recent takeover of an airfield. Some years later I found this event in a book about the Marines, down to the same location and everything. Interesting stuff. Also, I have some letters from my Grandfather's friend: Chief. He was a Native American that fought in the Pacific with my grandfather. In one account he describes how he snuck into the Japanese camp, got in the chow line, and ate their food! Well, I just thought I'd send you a little e-mail detailing some of my family's history. Thank you for the great web site, and keep up the good work. James Chance Wilson, sidwolf2003@yahoo.com

★

**Note: (Those who attended the Myrtle Beach Reunion will remember that William Stites was the person who fell and injured himself.)** Hello Florence, This is for William's subscription fee \$10 and for postage. Hope you had a very Merry Christmas and let 2010 be a great one. William is doing a bit better but it is a slow process for him, the leg is very weak. Regards, Iona Stites , 116-910 Heritage View, Saskatoon, SK Canada S7H 5S4

★

Dear Flo, Just a note to tell you I was treated for cancer all of 1997 and feeling fine but before Christmas was told cancer has spread. Am okay now but who knows how long. So am sure my son will let you know what happens. I read the newsletter cover to cover. Good luck and good health to you. Semper Fi, Bertha McBride, 564 N Armel Dr, Covina, CA 91722-3710

Please apply this to my "Striking Sixth" membership for the newsletter. I truly enjoy getting the paper so I can keep up with all the friends Wally and I made over the years. Bless all these Marines and their ladies. Best wishes, Barb O'Neil, 8006 S Kilbourn Ave,

Chicago, IL 60652

★

Dear Florence, Enclosed is a small contribution for the 6<sup>th</sup> Division. Wish I could do better but unfortunately, I can't. It's over 11 years since Joe passed away but the memories of him are still with me and we all miss him so much. He was a true devoted Marine.

Sincerely, Lillian Gracik 1<sup>st</sup> Prov. Br.  
143 Hoon Rd. 22<sup>nd</sup> Marines  
Butler, PA 16001 6<sup>th</sup> Division

★

Dear Flo, Here is a couple of names from the 6<sup>th</sup> Recon that have passed away:

B.A. Fisher, 6<sup>th</sup> Recon, 7/08/2009

Newt Wood, 6<sup>th</sup> Recon, 2/01/2010

I believe there is only 7 or 8 of us left that I know of. I think our traveling days are over as my wife has a difficult time getting around. We sure have enjoyed the reunions we were able to attend and be with such a great group - Tell Jack hi and take care.

Semper Fi, Fred Westphal, 6<sup>th</sup> Recon,  
307 W 34<sup>th</sup> St S, Wichita, KS 67217-3507

★

Hi Joe and Flo, I received a call from the granddaughter of one of our members. She wanted to let me know that her grandmother had passed away and would like for it to be included in the next newsletter. The Marine is Kenneth Aust, 29th B-I. He is in a nursing home and enjoys hearing the newsletter read to him. His wife, Louise, passed away May 26, 2009. The granddaughter's name is Stephanie Davis and they are from the Nashville, Tennessee area. She said that she is getting Kenneth's stuff from the 6th to come to her address now that he is in the nursing home. Hope this is in time for the next issue. Take care. Lisa Benedetti

★

Warren: You have a fine start for info as you say he was in 'I' (Item) Company, 29th Marine Reg't, 6th Div. First of all go to our web site and see 'forum' and post a note similar to those you see there, that you are seeking those that may have known him. Then send same type email to Joe Singleton, editor of our

newsletter and ask that he post your request. Joe is at [joes104182@aol.com](mailto:joes104182@aol.com). On our site see 'members on line' and scan down for any shown as 'I' Company Marines and send them an E-mail. I know one fine friend who resides in Clay, NY. He was a member of 'I' Company. Don Honis at cell phone: 404-543-0922. He can give you much info as to the company and perhaps he may have known your dad. You can get great info from the book 'History of the Sixth Marine Div. It is out of print but can be found on the used book sites. I use: alibris powells books, biblio books and abe books. All are reliable. I find alibris to be my favorite. You can also obtain video of Sixth Div. on Okinawa: [okinawa/6thusmcdivvideos](http://okinawa/6thusmcdivvideos). If you need further help, let me know, and I am sorry for the loss of your fine Marine dad. Bill Pierce, 6th Marine Division.  
**Ed's Note: This is just a sample of the letters and E-Mails, Bill as PR Chairman returns to inquiries**

★

To whom it may concern, Hello, my name is Nicholas Dagrosa. I am writing you because of my Pop Pop. My Pop Pop was in the 6th Marine Division during World War Two. His name was Harry Garrett Heath Jr, and was a P.F.C. During his service, he fought on Okinawa and conducted special tests on hydro-pneumatic recoil systems. My Pop Pop passed away on June 16 2008. However, knowing my interest in his service, he gave me a large container of pictures from Okinawa. There are probably 200 pictures of him and fellow soldiers, enemy caves, palaces, and camps for his group. I am only 13 years old, but I would love to send you some of these amazing pictures. If you wanted it, I could scan them into my computer and email them to you, or I could make copies. Please get back to me, I would love to help you with pictures, my email is: [PriviteFirstClassMarine@gmail.com](mailto:PriviteFirstClassMarine@gmail.com) or [Chow10@comcast.net](mailto:Chow10@comcast.net) sincerely, Nicholas Dagrosa SEMPER FI!!!!  
**Ed's Note: Nicholas has been notified that we will look at a few of his photos.**



## Mail Call

**Guam 1944. Looking for 6th Marine Division veterans accounts for article.**—Hello, My name is Eric Ethier and I'm a contributing editor for America in WWII magazine. I'm writing an article about the 1944 campaign for Guam, and wondered if you might know any veterans of the 22nd Marines who served there (who I might talk to), or know of any relevant written accounts from that unit (or the 4th Marines). If so, I'd appreciate hearing from you. Thanks very much, Sincerely, Eric Ethier, Narragansett, RI, 401-783-4540

★

Dale Keith Brazelton, Corporal, 29th Marines-Co. D, KIA on Okinawa. Looking for anybody who may have known him. Contact Randy Brazelton, 16755 Thompson Rd., Brookings, OR 97415, [rvbraz@verizon.net](mailto:rvbraz@verizon.net)

★

My Uncle was James Garfield Wesner, KIA, 17 May, 1945, Okinawa at age 19. He was an assistant cook with Co. C, 1st Battalion, 29th Marines, 6th Division. It would be nice to find someone who may have been there at that time and especially if there are ANY photos of him as a cook, etc. or anyone who may remember a skinny, small guy from Johnstown, Pa. His loving niece, who used to trail around after my teenage uncle, Diane Wesner Marshall (my Dad was one of his 4 brothers, two who served in WW2). And my late husband in the Coast Guard, Iceland, WW2.) [ohioweaver@aol.com](mailto:ohioweaver@aol.com)

★

Hello Joe, Just until recently I have never had a chance to know what a great man my father, Private Joseph Lee Hooker, was. He was fighting in the 4th Battalion, 15th Marines and then was combined and was part of the 6th Div.

My father was a singer, told jokes, and according to the Marine

Records just requested recently, before he joined the Marines he was part of the Russel Brothers Circus! He grew up in St. Augustine, FL. My father was 17 at the time of joining but said he was 18. My father died of a rare type of leukemia, and was the 8th reported case in the world. He was judge of Markus Hook, PA. He owned a gas station there also. If anyone knew him, has pictures that might be him, or anything like that, please contact us at [Bhylak@gmail.com](mailto:Bhylak@gmail.com), 610 869 2864

★

Joe, I was told to send this to you by Bill Pierce. Thank you for any help you can give me. Hello Bill. My name is Joe Samuelsen of Brooklyn New York. My uncle Joe Samuelsen (I am named after him) was killed in the Battle of Okinawa. He was in the Sixth Marine Division. Joe was also from Brooklyn. The reason I am writing is my father still mourns his brother's death. My father was 12 when Joe was killed. Joe was his idol and my father still talks about him. I was hoping somebody would remember my uncle, or have any information on him I could share with my father. It would be greatly appreciated. Thank the greatest generation for me. I owe my standard of living to those great men that fought in WW2. Sincerely, Joe Samuelsen, Brooklyn, N.Y. [joers2@optonline.net](mailto:joers2@optonline.net)

★

Marion Finding  
Ranks Thinning  
At Vets' Parties

Hi, Joe. Hope this finds you well and happy — Of course, you are always busy. I just wanted to let you know what I have been doing, most of which regards the Women's Auxiliary of which, as you know, I am president. I am still alive but have had my days of not feeling up to par.

During the holidays I did make a couple of veteran parties, the VFW and the P.O.W. The attendance was much smaller, but we are all getting

older and our health is such that we can no longer do what we would like to do.

I had a long conversation with Pauline Roberts, our treasurer. She has not been well of late, but she did make our donation to Toys for Tots. She hopes to see us all in Vegas, where we will hold our biannual election of officers.

An hour ago I returned from the VA Hospital in Albany, N.Y., where I attended the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service and Brotherhood Award. A Marine, James A. Haggerty, who served from 1951-54, received the award. Following his active duty tour, he served his fellows in such organizations as the VA Hospital, the New York State Council of Veterans, the VFW and the New York Marine Corps League. He also works on the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots campaign and other organizations that benefit veterans.

I had the pleasure of talking with him and various notables in the New York State House and Senate. I hope to see you in Vegas. I must call Marilyn Essex and Tom Terpinas. I try to keep in touch with the Sixth Division affairs through them. God Bless and stay well. Always, Marion Bangert.

★

Terry, thanks so for the signed copy of the book. Jean and I were amazed at your life and contributions. God Bless you and all you have done. Here's my take on your fabulous book. Bill

"TERRIBLE TERRY: Just a Marine"—by Howard Terry.

This book provides a great service as a guide for the reader to evaluate and define more clearly his or her responsibility to family and country. I think this book should be required reading for all high school and college students. This book delivers sage advice for young adults that desperately need it. Certainly, the book teaches truths that are valid in any age but that warrant special

## Mail Call

attention in today's society.

It is worthy to note that no one was around in his formative years to teach Howard Terry about character, honor and what was right from wrong. By hard knocks and a lot of trial and error, he taught himself. Unlike many of our youth today, Howard pulled himself up by his bootstraps—and has been a model citizen throughout his life, truly an example for all to emulate.

The Battle of Okinawa is where Howard faced the most difficult challenge of his young life. But it was the hard life he endured as a child and Marine training that enabled him to kill the enemy and survive. My father-in Law (Dan Dereschuk/ 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division machine gunner) stated that Howard was A True American Hero. Moreover, he treated people the way he would want to be treated.

I know Howard can relate with pride and honor to his children and grandchildren exactly what he did in the Great War. He does not have to cough, shift his eyes and say, "well, your Granddaddy shoveled manure in Kansas...." He can look his children and grandchildren squarely in the eyes with pride, and say, "Your Granddaddy served in the Famous 6th Marine Division that fought bravely and ferociously during the Okinawa Campaign."

I recommend you link up with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at Quantico, VA, for a book signing at that center! The young Lieutenants would never forget the privilege of meeting with you and talking to you.

This book is a mandatory read for all my Steed grandchildren! And, some History Lesson, it is, too—it opened up some new chapters for me; I never knew the Corps had Marines stationed in Ireland during WW II. Thanks again for all you have done for our Country and Corps. Semper Fi, Bill Steed USMC (Ret).

★

Terry, It's always nice to know a good author and fellow Marine. I admire you for pulling yourself up by the bootstraps and going always forward. It is an honor to have made your acquaintance when you passed through our fair city a couple of years ago and we had a chance to meet your lovely wife and daughter and break bread with you all. Good book and also very interesting. Thank you for helping keep America free. Semper Fidelis, Jack Pankratz

★

Dear Bill: Thanks again for all of your help and information over the past few years. As I've noted in earlier correspondence to you, my father enjoyed and benefitted from the information and materials that I derived through visiting your website and shared with him during his final years. I had purchased and shared with him a 6th Marine Division book, an assortment of Okinawa-related video tapes and various Marine hats, T-shirts, etc. that he wore proudly on a frequent basis for the rest of his life. I was concerned that the graphic video tapes actually filmed at Okinawa might trigger nightmares, etc., but my Mother said that he really enjoyed watching them and that it helped him a lot to understand more about his role in the war. I would suggest that your website and your personal involvement have helped many, many veterans to better understand and be even prouder of their respective roles in defending our freedom. Thanks, John Fox Wheatley III.

★

Subj: Grave Marker. Hello Bill Pierce, I wanted to let you know that I received the Grave Marker Saturday and it is very, very nice. I really appreciate you doing this for me and wonder if I could maybe make a contribution to something concerning the Division. I really want

to thank you again and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. Semper Fi, Dick Willer

★

Paul Sulzman <sulzma@valley1.com> **Does anyone know JOHN (JACK) A. SULZMANN?** He was a forward observer in WWII and was in the 6th Marine Division. He had a presidential unit citation and also a citation signed by Admiral Nimitz. He passed away in 1989 and I am trying to get additional information from anyone who knew him. He did attend previous reunions. He grew up in Willoughby, Ohio

★

Dear Mr. Pierce, I am on the email list for this organization which apparently keeps current and former military apprised of all the many bills before congress as well as new services/benefits. I think this monthly email would be of great benefit for some in the Raiders who might not be aware of existing or new benefits coming down the pipe but also can make members aware of pending legislation that might affect your members, giving them a chance to be proactive on this topic with their respective representatives/senators.

This newsletter covers quite a few topics that are of interest to any current or former U.S. military and thus I think that all your membership should be on this email list. I pray that you and your family have a great and blessed day and week sir. Andrew "Andy" Young, Asst. to Webmaster Lucy and husband too. <grin> Former Marine and son of a Sixth Division Marine

## CORPORAL JAMES L. DAY

*continued from page 15...*

wounds. Assisted by only one partially effective man, he reorganized his defensive position in time to halt a fifth enemy attack with devastating small arms fire. On three separate occasions, Japanese soldiers closed to within a few feet of his foxhole, but were killed by Corporal Day. During the second day, the enemy conducted numerous unsuccessful swarming attacks against his exposed position. When the attacks momentarily subsided, over 70 enemy dead were counted around his position. On the third day, a wounded and exhausted Corporal Day repulsed the enemy's final attack and dispatched around 12 of the enemy at close range. Having yielded no ground and with more than 100 enemy dead around his position, Corporal Day preserved the lives of his fellow Marines and made a primal contribution to the success of the Okinawa campaign. By his extraordinary heroism, repeated acts of valor, and quintessential battlefield leadership, Corporal Day inspired the efforts of his outnumbered Marines to defeat a much larger enemy force, reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

## President's Report

*continued from page 2*

any of you have anything to add, call me at (317) 823-1117.

This president's report is somewhat truncated (the editor says space is precious) because I have written an article about a friend of mine who had an interesting experience during the battle. It will be found with other stories and photographs about our experiences on and off Okinawa Shima.

## Shadow Government Needs To Come Out Into Light Now

Lisa Benedetti is the Secretary  
Robin Starr is shadowing Joe Singleton, editor  
Robert McGowan is shadowing Sam Petriello, judge advocate

We as a group need to have the following positions mirrored

Treasurer  
Service Officer  
Chaplain  
Public Relations  
President

I personally am asking for volunteers to fill these positions. If you hold the Sixth Marine Division near and dear to your heart and have had experience, please, we need your help.

With the Reunion right around the corner I am asking any and all Lineal Descendants that are going to attend for your helping hands. There will be plenty for everyone to help with. From the Hospitality room to shuffling people around the hotel. I'm looking forward to making new friends and renewing friendships.

Please contact me  
Connie Houseweart  
570-433-4402  
[almostnuts@verizon.net](mailto:almostnuts@verizon.net)



## Add This to the Cost of War

— Soldier or Marine, it doesn't matter. She loved him. (Mary McHugh visits the grave of her fiancé, Sgt. James Regan, who was killed in Iraq, February, 2007. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.)

## NEW MEMBERS

BROTHERS, Karl W., ID #6083  
29<sup>TH</sup> Mar-3-L/4<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-L Reg.  
Annual  
P.O. Box 66  
Bath, OH 44210-0066  
(330) 666-2436

CREMEENS, Andrew S., ID #6082  
Great Grandson of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
180 Tates Creek Avenue  
Richmond, KY 40475-1329  
(859) 624-2340

CREMEENS, Eric S., ID #6079  
Grandson of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
1413 Castle Drive  
Lafayette, IN 47905-7600  
(502) 863-5432

CREMEENS, Hayden N., ID #6081  
Great Granddaughter of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
180 Tates Creek Avenue  
Richmond, KY 40475-1329  
(859) 624-2340

CREMEENS, Isaac T., ID #6074  
Great Grandson of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
850 Addison Drive NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 37316-3442  
(727) 288-7473

CREMEENS, James P., ID #6078  
Father-in-law of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. Life  
1413 Castle Drive  
Lafayette, IN 47905-7600  
(502) 863-5432

*continued on page 17..*

## “OFTEN TESTED, ALWAYS FAITHFUL, BROTHERS FOREVER”

....Becoming a Marine came with a price, representing Marines comes with a price....

**HONOR, COURAGE AND  
COMMITMENT**



## New Members *continued from page 16*

CREMEENS, Jeanne M., ID #6073  
Granddaughter of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
850 Addison Drive NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 37736-3442  
(727) 288-7473

CREMEENS, Patrick J., ID #6072  
Grandson of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
850 Addison Drive NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 37716-3442  
(727) 288-7473

CREMEENS, Ryan P., ID #6081  
Great Grandson of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
1413 Castle Drive  
Lafayette, IN 47905-7600  
(502) 863-5432

DAVIE, II, Robert F., ID#6086  
Son of Robert F. Davie  
4th Mar-3-HQ, Assoc. LD Annual  
P.O. Box 2221  
Manchester, VT 05055  
[Robert\\_Davie@comcast.net](mailto:Robert_Davie@comcast.net)

GEBHART, Bruce A., ID #6087  
Son of Jack C. Gebhart  
6<sup>th</sup> Medical Bn, LD Annual  
22919 Glenover Drive  
Katy, TX 77450-3152  
[Bagebhart@comcast.net](mailto:Bagebhart@comcast.net)  
(281) 728-7001

MAREDA, Richard, ID #6071  
Son of George Mareda,  
6<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn-C, Assoc. LD Life  
2303 Rue Maison  
Biloxi, MS 39532-3215  
(228) 594-8564  
[Rmareda@cableone.net](mailto:Rmareda@cableone.net)

MAST, R. K., ID #6084  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-I, Regular Annual  
95 Rick Mast Loop  
Rockbridge Baths, VA 24473-2301  
(549) 348-5407

PFEIFFER, Harold C., ID #6088  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-C, Regular Annual  
9-B Yorktown Pkwy  
Whiting, NJ 08759-6350  
(732) 350-1937  
[njmae@aol.com](mailto:njmae@aol.com)

SCHULTHEIS, Merritt J., ID #6089  
22<sup>nd</sup> Marines, Regular Annual  
23552 Collins Street  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367-3016  
(818) 887-9168  
[essschul@aol.com](mailto:essschul@aol.com)

RICH, Angela R., ID #6077  
Granddaughter of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
404 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Cassville, MO 65625-1608  
(417) 847-0445

RICH, Harold L., ID #6076  
Grandson of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
404 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Cassville, MO 65625-1608  
(417) 847-0445

RICH, Roland L., ID #6075  
Son-in-law of Oliver R. Welch  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F, Assoc. LD Life  
404 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Cassville, MO 65625-1608  
(417) 847-0445

## Financial Report

### 6th MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Financial Report Nov. 28, 2009 thru March 5, 2010  
**INCOME**

Balance Forward from 2009	9,010.83
Interest	652.37
Received from Dornan	
Dues	1,495.00
Subscription, Newsletter	2,470.00
Donation, General	330.00
Donation, Newsletter	50.00
Donation, Directory	125.00
Donation, Memorial Markers	10.00
Sub Total, Dornan	4,480.00
Reunion 2009 + Essex	3,690.89
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>18,823.26</b>

### EXPENSE

Flo Dornan Contract	1,150.00	
Bill Pierce PR	149.39	
Newsletter	2,823.93	
Memorial Markers	-	
Fees	10.00	
Supplies	-	
Postage	-	
Donations	1,100.00	
2009 Reunion	28.00	
2010 Reunion	2,500.00	
Investments, CD & M Market	-	
<b>TOTAL Expense</b>	<b>7,761.32</b>	

Check Book Balance	10,072.77
Money Market To Date	18,765.27
CD, Principal, interest to Check	70,000.00
Total Assets	98,838.04

Money Market Savings  
**38,755.39 Bal 11/30/2009**  
(20,000.00) 12/2/2009 Transferred to CD  
\$9.88 interest to date

**18,765.27 Total, Money Market**

Harold E. Walters, Treasurer

Spring 2010

**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.

<u>NAME:</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE OF DEATH</u>
BAUMWELL, Robert B.	6th Mtr Transport Bn-HQ	Unknown
BEAU, Jerome J.C.	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-1-C & 3-H	2/02/2010
BERGMAN, Walter "Bus"	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-2-D	3/28/2010
CALLAHAN, Thomas V. (NM)	6 <sup>th</sup> Marine Division	Unknown
CLARK, Edward D.	4 <sup>th</sup> MAR-2-G	1/29/2009
FANNY, Roger (NM)	15 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-H	2/27/2009
FARIA, JR., Manuel T. (NM)	6 <sup>th</sup> Marine Division	9/21/2009
FESHANKO, Alex (NM)	15 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-H	Unknown
FISHER, Berry A.	6 <sup>th</sup> Recon	7/08/2009
FREELING, John (Jack)	4 <sup>th</sup> MAR-2-F	2/18/2010
GORDON, Douglas P.	15 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-I	12/22/2009
GOULDING, James W.	4 <sup>th</sup> Marines	12/23/2008
HAGNER, Donald B.	4 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-I	2/08/2010
HEARD, John	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-2-HQ	12/31/2009
HEARD, Jean	Wife of John Heard	10/15/2009
KEMP, Kaye	Wife of Henry Kemp	3/10/2010
LYNES, Richard J. (NM)	29 <sup>th</sup> MARF-1-B	3/25/2008
McCALLUM, Rosie	Wife of Neal McCallum	11/11/2009
NOTOBARTOLO, Sam	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-2-HQ	1/22/2010
PARRY, Juanita	Wife of Ernest Parry	1/26/2010
PAYNE, York (NM)	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-I	12/28/2009
PERALTA, Anthony	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-I	1/26/2010
PIVARUNAS, Dorothy	Wife of Walter Pivarunas	12/10/2009
POLLOCK, Stephen R.	22 <sup>nd</sup> MAR-2-E	Unknown
PUCHACZ, Carl	6 <sup>th</sup> Engineer, Bn-B	Unknown
RITTENBURY, Charles H.	15 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-H&S	1/00/2008
SCHADT, George W.	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-2-F	12/26/2009
SINGLEY, James W.	4 <sup>th</sup> MAR-WPNS	12/22/2009
SMITH, Richard J.(NM)	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-Pioneers	8/01/1998
STOSIUS, William A. (NM)	6 <sup>th</sup> Marines - Amphib.	4/08/2009
VAN HOOSE, Lester L. (NM)	6 <sup>th</sup> Marine Division	9/01/1974
WHEATLEY, JR, John Fox (NM)	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-G	12/29/2008
WOOD, Newton C.	6 <sup>th</sup> Recon	2/01/2010
ZAPPONE, James D.	29 <sup>th</sup> MAR-3-K	12/18/2009

**Donations from Caring Members, Families & Friends**

**DIRECTORY:**

Cote, Adrienne  
McAfee, Jr., George  
Miller, Charles C.  
Pimental, John  
Quate, Betty R.  
Scomis, Peter

**GENERAL FUND:**

Accrocchio, Daniel  
Bledsoe, Alberta  
Gracik, Lillian  
Hibbard, John M.  
Lennon, Hugh F.  
(Above and beyond)  
Likins, Merle  
Milillo, Gerard  
Miller, Charles C.  
Paola, Angelo  
Ruediger, Leonard  
Schroeder, Arno  
Scomis, Peter  
Staten, Mildred  
Stringham, Charles

**LIFE CARD DONATION:**

Mareda, Richard  
(Above and beyond)

**MEMORIAL MARKER FUND:**

Lazusky, Walter  
Miller, Charles C.  
Pivarunas, Walter

**NEWSLETTER FUND:**

Bangert, Marion

**MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER**

I am sure everyone is as happy as I am to know spring is finally here; it was a miserable winter everywhere. Somehow the flowers and the birds' voices are so much more beautiful than usual. Maybe I appreciate them more.

All Members with E-mails: I have something I want you to do — it won't take long. If you have changed your e-mail address or changed servers, please e-mail me your new e-mail address. One way to check what e-mail address we have on your record is to check the Sixth Marine

Division Assn. web site and check out the "E-mail" link. This list has been recently updated and will be updated again the end of June (once at the end of each quarter). Often people try to contact a member by e-mail only to find out the address is invalid. If you realize you have a new e-mail address, you might also remember that you moved and forgot to notify us. Please help keep your records current and thank you for your support.

It's a new year and time to check your label to be sure you won't miss any issues of the "Striking Sixth," a very special newsletter. Dues and

subscription expiration dates are shown on the address label.

**Membership Status as of 4/13/2010**

Regular Members	1,571
Associate Members	643
Lineal Descendants	154
Honorary Members	8
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>2,376*</b>

(\*Dues paid since 2007)

Semper Fi,  
Flo Dornan



# Krulak Son Featured Speaker at Las Vegas Reunion



**LtGen Victor Krulak Sr., Victor Krulak Jr. and Mrs. Victor (Amy) Krulak Sr. The elder Krulaks are deceased.**

**By Pam Bloustine, Brenda Blair & Joan Willauer**

Since this year is the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assault and capture of Okinawa, we thought it would be appropriate to have a Guest Speaker for the

Grand Banquet at the Reunion in Las Vegas this year who was connected somehow to the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division.

Well, we know "The Brute," LtGen Victor H. Krulak USMC (Ret) passed away 29 December 2008 at age 95. LtGen Krulak, a Naval Academy graduate and a LtCol at the time, served with the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division as the G-3 and went on to serve a total of 34 years in the Marine Corps. What you may not have known about him is that he had 3 sons who all followed in his footsteps and also graduated from the Naval Academy. Yes, one became Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Chuck Krulak USMC (Ret), but he also had two other sons: Commander Victor H. Krulak, Jr. CHC, USN (Ret), a former Navy Chaplain who served the majority of his career with Marines and retired Marine Corps Reserve Colonel

William M. Krulak. Both of these sons are retired Episcopal priests.

General Chuck Krulak told us recently his thoughts on the personal and professional connection that the Krulak Family has with the 6th Marine Division. "One of the earliest pictures of the Krulak Boys, taken many, many, many, years ago, is of the three of us, standing in a line, wearing jackets that each bears the Division patch on the arm!," he stated.

We are honored to have Victor H. Krulak, Jr. as our Guest Speaker in Las Vegas. Father Krulak is the eldest son of "The Brute" and, according to our sources, has some great "Brute" stories. We look forward to meeting him and hearing his stories, and hopefully he will bring a copy of the photo mentioned by the General! See you all in Las Vegas.

## Membership Application and Change of Address

First Name _____	MI _____	Last Name _____	Spouse 1st Name _____
Street Address _____		Apt/Bldg/Lot _____	
City _____		State _____	Zip+4 _____
Phone ( )-____-____		E-mail Address _____	
Company _____		Battalions _____	Regiment _____ Other _____
If Change of Address, your 4 digit ID# _____ (On mailing label - top/left above name)			
Old Address _____		Apt _____	
City _____		State _____	Zip+4 _____
If applying for membership as an Associate Member, provide name of relative who served with the Sixth Marine Division:			
_____		Relationship _____	
His unit within Division, if known _____			
Annual Dues (\$10/year) _____		*Member _____	*Associate _____ \$ _____
Life Membership (\$75) _____		*Member _____	*Associate _____ \$ _____
Subscription to Striking Sixth newsletter of the Sixth Marine Division (\$10) _____		\$ _____	
Additional copies of newsletter: \$3.50 each			
<i>Subscription and annual dues are based on calendar year.</i>			
Optional Donations			
Membership Directory Contribution.....		\$ _____	
Memorial Medallion Fund Contribution.....		\$ _____	
General Operating Fund Contribution .....		\$ _____	
Make check payable to the Sixth Marine Division Association		Total \$ _____	
Mail to: Florence R. Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011			
Email: Sxthmardiv@aol.com Phone: 817-275-1552			

**NOTICE**  
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**Fee of \$10**  
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<b>Regiment-Battalion-Company</b>		<b>CHECK YOUR LABEL</b>		<b>Newsletter Subscription</b> Expires Dec. 31 of year indicated	
<b>ID Number</b>	1695 29th Mar-3-G James S. White 2209 W. Holley Ave. Duncan, OK 73533-2007	<b>LIFE</b>	2003	<b>Membership/Dues Coding:</b> LIFE= Life Membership (Owe no dues) 2002= Annual Membership Dues Expires Dec. 31 of year indicated	
		<b>DELIVERY POINT BARCODE</b>			
<p>Check your name and address (zip code, Apt/Bldg/Lot No.) Notify the Membership Manager if you find an error.</p> <p><b>Important:</b> If no barcode appears on your label, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Contact your local Post Office for proper format.</p>					

# 6th Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court Arlington, TX 76011



Striking Sixth Newsletter

Spring 2010

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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34748



## The Sixth Lived and Died Overseas

The only Marine Division that, as an entire unit, never spent as much as one day in the continental United States was the Sixth Marine Division. It was composed of three infantry regiments; the 4th Marines, 22nd Marines and 29th Marines, an artillery regiment, the 15th Marines and subordinate units such as Engineer, Medical, Pioneer, Motor Transport, Tank, Headquarters and Service battalions.

The division was created on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands in September of 1944. The core about which the division was formed was the First Provisional Marine Brigade, which included the 4th Marines, the 22nd Marines and the artillery battalions that had supported those two Marine regiments and which later were combined and expanded into the 15th Marines. The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade fought as a unit in the invasion and retaking of Guam in the Marianas Islands. The brigade was awarded the Navy Unit Citation

for its actions on Guam.

After the fighting on the Island of Guam was ended, the brigade was joined on Guadalcanal by the 1st Battalion of the 29th Marines, which had fought with the Second Marine Division on Saipan in The Marianas. The 2nd and 3rd battalions of the 29th Marines left the United States on August 1, 1944 and joined the rest of the Sixth Marine Division on Guadalcanal.

While the Sixth Marine Division was a new division when it was created, its component units were anything but new. Of its nine infantry battalions, seven of them had fought in at least one island battle, most in at least two battles. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 29th Marines were new units, but with many noncommissioned and commissioned officers who were overseas for the second time, having fought as members of other Marine Divisions.

After training on the Island of Guadalcanal, the division steamed 6000 miles to land on the Island of Okinawa on April 1, 1945. The division then fulfilled its mission of capturing the northern half of that island.

In late April the division moved south to join in the assault of a strong Japanese defense line that had been constructed across the southern part of the Island of Okinawa. That line was located in hills that were honeycombed with caves and passages, sometimes having three or more levels. It was possible to traverse the line from coast to coast and be underground almost all the way. The Marines and soldiers assaulting that line were met by well-registered mortar and artillery fire, as well as machine guns with interlocking fields of fire. A high price was paid for each yard gained against that line, with the blood of men killed and wounded being the currency.

*continued on page 14....*