

## Portland, Oregon Choice for '12 Reunion



*Take the train to Portland, Oregon. It may beat the automobile. It surely will beat the Overland Trail people took a couple of centuries ago. Where do you get on? Only Amtrak knows. Where do you get off? Right here at the neatest looking Union Station, probably, in the West.*

**Aasland Woodhouse  
Chairman of the 2012 Sixth  
Marine Reunion  
Portland, Oregon**

I am the proud daughter of a Sixth Marine Division Marine, O B Aasland, H&S, 3, 15. I am a native Oregonian as are my husband, children and grandchildren. I've been married to my high school sweetheart, Gregg, for 43 years. We have two children, Jeff and Tiffany. Jeff is married to Sonja and they have three children, Paige 19, Lincoln 9, and Christian 6. I worked for the City of Beaverton, Oregon for 36 years and retired in 2003. Gregg worked for Tektronix for 20 years and Intel for 20 years,

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## Tom Romano's Adventures on the Reunion Trail Honor the Memory of his Dad's Marine Service

I attended my first 6th Marine Division Reunion along with my brother Vincent Jr. as Lineal Descendants of our dad, Vincent T. Romano, Sr. It was our small way of honoring his memory. We did not know about the Association until we read about the Cleveland Reunion in the American Legion Magazine and then contacted the Benedetti Family.

We were a little apprehensive about how we would be received by the Greatest Generation, namely the 6th Division veterans. I can assure you that we were welcomed like prodigals, so Vincent and I signed up

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### Pete Howell Dies

**Harold "Pete" Howell, F-2-29,  
died in Springfield, TN, July 20,  
2011, according to his grandson  
John Applegate. He suffered a  
heart attack. Services were held  
July 25 in Ravenna, Ohio**

**Pete was active in the association  
for years and served as our 26th  
president. His was a voice listened  
to in our councils as his integrity  
was unquestioned.**



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**The Arcade at Night**

This beautiful scene at the reunion hotel (Hyatt Regency) in Cleveland added to the festivities. The Benedettis, from Alio and Angela to the youngest sister, did themselves proud in another good year for the 6th Marine Division.



## The President's Report

By Sam Petriello

Thank you to all the members and their families who attended the Annual Association Reunion in Cleveland this past September. A special thanks is due the Planning Committee, especially the Benedetti Family, for organizing a great reunion.

The sightseeing tours and banquet were enjoyed by those attending. There was a great showing of lineal descendants, and it was wonderful to see so many family members helping to keep the Association vibrant and active.

I would like to congratulate the lineal descendants who now hold the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, Judge Advocate and Treasurer, and appointed committees. There are still a number of Sixth Division Marines on the board to provide seasoning.

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The Hyatt Arcade

## Ed Marsalek Ends His Second Presidency; He Will Still Stay Active

Yesterday our local newspaper stated that Chicago is about to have the worst winter in the United States. So before I am snowed in I would like to thank all the officers who helped make my Presidency such a success. Without their wonderful efforts our organization never could have been so successful.

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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."

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Suggestions are welcome. Submissions should be sent to the editor, Joe Singleton, 122 Camino Capri, Henderson, NV 89012, phone: (512) 695-4295, email: joe.semperhorn@gmail.com

**Unit Directors**

4th Marines	George Scott
15th Marines	James McWalters
22nd Marines	Bob Russell
29th Marines	Henry B. Kemp
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6th Med Bn	Jack Rice
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6th JASCO	Dick Roberts
1st Amphibs	Vacant

**Directory Committee**

Joe Singleton, Chairman  
Membership Manager  
Florence Dornan



## Our Future President Connie Houseweart Tells Everything

Connie Houseweart



Hi All: I was asked to tell a little bit about myself. As you all know I've been hanging around for a little while now. I think I'll start when I was growing up.

I can remember my father talking about the Marine Corps and visiting some of his "buddies" as well as them visiting us over the years. For years and years I sent his Christmas cards to those that were close to him in the Corps, so I feel as if I have known some of you pretty much all of my life.

Then the Association started to have their reunions that my mother would attend with my father until her passing. He still continued to come to the reunions. My sister and I started to attend a few with him. He lived for the reunions to renew old acquaintances and possibly make new friends. The year he passed I promised myself that I would try to attend the reunions in his honor.

He's been gone since 2006 and I'm still here. I have two daughters that live in the Pittsburgh area and a son that is stationed at Fort Bragg, NC. I've been active in the Women's Auxiliary for the past three or four years, two of them as Vice President.

I want to tell you that I am completely in awe and totally honored to have been chosen to be your President Elect. My hope and dream is to be able to perpetuate the Sixth Marine Division Association through the Lineal Descendents. I also hope that this will let other Lineal Descendents know that their Marine doesn't have to be present for them to keep their interest and participation in the program.

On a final note the Benedetti's deserve a round of applause. They did an excellent job hosting the reunion in Cleveland. Let's give the Woodhouses our support for the next reunion in Portland, OR. Hope to see everyone there. Semper Fi, Connie Houseweart.

Summer 2011

## It Was Winter, the War Was Over, It Was Time To Leave China to the Chinese, 19 Marines Head Home

These 18 Marines, original members of Fox 29, have put in their time overseas and are headed home in January of 1946. There was a 19th, but Dominick Fioriti missed the photo. They are, from left, first row, Charles E. (Red) Lewis, William J. Twigger, Edward A. Linton, Eugene E. Jackson, Enrico Dimartino, George P. McAndrews. Standing row, from left, Edward E. Trotta, Kenneth G. Sessions, Walter R. Schultz, Louis A. Ittman Jr., Jesse

C. Staton, Charles W. Snyder, Soterios A. Saggiotes, Lloyd T. Preston, Leo. T. Dragovitch, William J. Humphrey Jr., Charles E. Abernathy and Mahon S. Keller. **Ed's Note: This photo ran a couple of years ago with a caption that was so wrong and so messed up that Sgt. Bill Twigger and Dick Whitaker, both of Fox, separately sent in the actual names complete with serial numbers. I have been trying to get it in ever since.**



### Going Home, by Mary Fahl

*They say there's a place, where dreams have all gone  
They've never said where, but I think I know  
It's miles through the night, just over the dawn,  
On the road that will take me home.  
I know in my bones that I've been here before  
The ground feels the same but the land's been torn  
I've a long way to go. the stars tell me so  
On this road that will take me home  
Love waits for me 'round the bend, leads me endlessly on  
Surely sorrow will find an end, and all my troubles will be gone  
And I'll know what I've lost and all that I've won  
When the road finally takes me home.  
And when I pass by, don't lead me astray  
Don't try an stop me, don't stand in my way  
I'm bound for the hills where cool waters flow  
On this road that will take me home  
Love waits for me 'round the bend, leads me endlessly on  
Surely sorrow will find an end, and all my troubles will be gone  
And I'll know what I've lost and all that I've won  
When the road finally takes me home.  
I'm going home  
I'm going home  
I'm going home*

## President's Report

*continued from page 2....*

With the recent infusion of donations and money, the Scholarship Program has been reinstated for lineal descendants of the 6th Marine Division Association. Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship should contact Ms. Lea McFall, Development Officer. USMC Scholarship Foundation, 121 South Saint Asaph St, Alexandria, VA, 22314, phone 743-549-0060. In addition, those wishing to donate to the Scholarship Program can send donations to our Treasurer or Membership Chairman or directly to the USMC Scholarship Foundation at the above address. Education is so important to the success of young people; let's try to keep this tradition alive.

Like all 6th Division members, service to my country was a necessary and important part of my life. My grandsons, Michael and Paul continue this tradition of service. Captain Michael LaSorda was recently deployed to Afghanistan, where he worked with U.S. Marines supplying intelligence information. He is now assigned Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he is a research physicist specializing in satellites. Michael is a 2006 graduate of the Air Force Academy.

Michael's younger brother, First Lieutenant Paul, pilots a KC-135 Stratotanker, which performs global air refueling. Paul returned to Afghanistan for his second deployment in October, where his KC-135 will provide fuel to Joint-Coalition and NATO fighter aircraft, thus extending their flight duration. He is a 2008 graduate of the Air Force Academy. Sam Petriello, Association President.



Ed Marsalek

## Ed Marsalek

*continued from page 2...*

I wish our new President, Sam Petriello, a great tenure and he can expect me to help in any way. Every President needs the help of a great Board and Sam surely has that in the 6th division.

Our recent Cleveland reunion was a wonderful event. The Benedetti girls and family as well as the volunteers are to be commended for their hard work that made it such a great reunion.

Another giant step in the insurance of the perpetuation of the 6th Division Association, two of our lineal descendents have been elected to the Board namely: Connie Houseweart, President Elect, daughter of the late fallen comrade Pat Hayes, who has given up her vacation from work each year to attend and work at our reunion. Jim Rigby, Treasurer, son of D.C. Rigby, who has hosted a reunion and always attends reunions.

I have the upmost confidence that the two will both be outstanding. Their election sends them into our gradual plan of the orderly change in the management of our business affairs necessary in the perpetuation of our Association. We have lost some of the experience but we have gained the pep and vitality required for the future of our organization. The membership has made a wise decision in their elections.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the efforts of the Women's auxiliary for their constant service over the years

## Tom Romano's Adventures On the 6th's Reunion Trail

*continued from page 1....*

for all of the events from Tuesday, September 6 to Friday, September 9.

I was asked by the Benedettis to write a few words about the daily events. Here goes: On Tuesday afternoon, we walked from the Hyatt Regency to the Federal Reserve Bank. There we received lots of information during our tour: the history of the Federal Reserve, the architecture of this magnificent building, printing bills and coinage, security and much more. Before leaving, we were given a plastic bag of shredded bills as a souvenir.

Tuesday evening, we attended a Cleveland Indians home game vs. the Detroit Tigers. The seats were great. We had a sizeable group in attendance and we all cheered for the home team Indians (Go Yanks) in a losing effort.

Wednesday was City Tour day, and we enjoyed an extensive tour of the great city of Cleveland. Jimmy, our tour guide was extremely knowledgeable and some of the points of interest were downtown Cleveland, the Lake Erie waterfront, the Rock & Roll Museum, University Circle, various ethnic neighborhoods

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and the monetary service to the 6th division.

Thank you for giving me the privilege and honor to serve as your President. I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, good health, and Ann and I hope to see you at the next reunion. Semper Fi, Ed



## Tom Romano's Adventures On the 6th's Reunion Trail

*continued from page 4....*

(Little Dublin, Slavic Village and Little Italy), the Hope Bridge and the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

At the shrine, we were served lunch by the good sisters of The Most Holy Trinity. Vincent and I missed the Terminal Tower Tour climb to the Observation Deck on the 42nd floor, but understand the view was terrific. We opted for Happy Hour in the Hospitality Room.

The Thursday event was a train ride through the Cuyahoga Valley. A large group attended this event and once we boarded, the group spread out in three different cars. Each car had its own guide. The guide in my car was very informative about the history and geography of the Valley. The scenery was spectacular. Some members of our group got off the train at Peninsula Depot and were later picked up on the return trip. The volunteer staff was very friendly and helpful.

Friday, the Marines received a great welcome and words of thanks for their courageous wartime service from the Captain and Crew of the Goodtime III. We cruised on the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie taking in many points of interest and fantastic views. The River and Lake Cruise concluded our daily sightseeing events. The events were very informative and enjoyable but for me, my greatest enjoyment was being in the company of the Marines, their wives and family members. Semper Fi !  
Tom Romano

Summer 2011

## Portland, Oregon to Be Site for 2012 Reunion

*continued from page 1....*

both in Beaverton and retired from Intel in 2009.

I enjoy traveling, reading, making cards and spending time with and spoiling my grandchildren. They are truly the 'light' of my life. I have attended 14 Sixth Marine Division Reunions with my dad since my mom passed away. Gregg, Jeffrey and Tiffany have also attended several reunions.

So, why is Portland a good site? Coming to the west coast and visiting a city that has mild weather (NO humidity) with possible rain showers, beautiful green covered mountains and fields, snow covered Mt. Hood and exciting waterways such as the Columbia and Willamette rivers. Let me just say that our downtown community is very pleasant with many excellent shopping stores such as Macy's and Nordstrom and a good variety of restaurants, lounges and microbrewery's. Oh, did I mention Oregon has NO state sales tax! OORAH!

Now that I hope I've got your interest, I'm pleased to say that we have chosen the Hilton Hotel in downtown Portland as the place to hold our 2012 Sixth Marine Division Reunion. The Hilton is located in the heart of the city. The Hilton is close to MAX, our light rail train.

Portland also has a streetcar system. Rooms are very nice and roomy and are all located in the same tower. Cost per night for a room will be \$110 + 12.5% room tax for a total of \$123.75 per night, if I've done my math right. The exciting part is that the elevator for our rooms will deliver us straight down to the Hospitality room, so there will be very minimal walking.

As with most cities, there are a lot of things one can see and do in Portland. A few events that are in the planning stages are the Evergreen Aviation Museum, which is the home of Howard



## "Send 'em up, I'll wait!"

Love it! This has got to be one of the greatest quotes of all time. I thought this might make you smile. :-)

...conversation overheard on the VHF Guard (emergency) frequency 121.5 MHz while flying from Europe to Dubai .

Iranian Air Defense Site: 'Unknown aircraft you are in Iranian airspace. Identify yourself.' Aircraft: 'This is a United States aircraft. I am in Iraqi airspace.'

Air Defense Site: 'You are in Iranian airspace. If you do not depart our airspace we will launch interceptor aircraft!'

Aircraft: 'This is a United States Marine Corps FA-18 fighter. Send 'em up, I'll wait!'

Air Defense Site: (...total silence)  
God bless our troops. There is something about a Marine that makes other countries listen to reason.

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Hughes "Spruce Goose." The museum has many WWII fighter and bomber planes. Another event is a luncheon aboard the Portland Spirit, which sails the Willamette river. Another event will be a "Day in the Vineyards" where you'll have an opportunity to taste some of Oregon's best Pinot Noir wines while taking in the beautiful vineyards and countryside.

We look forward to hosting the 2012 Sixth Marine Division Reunion in Portland, Oregon. The dates are September 16-22, 2012. More information will be available in the next newsletter. Please contact us for more information at sjawoodhouse@gmail.com or 503-642-2429.

## Book Review

### Early Marines Set Standard of Valor

“The Fort” by Bernard Cornwell tells a book-length story of a forgotten battle of the Revolutionary War. Though it drags a little here and there, this tale of another American disaster of the time has one bright spot: 227 American Marines.

The British in the summer of 1779 seized a harbor at Penobscot Bay in eastern Massachusetts (that was later to become the State of Maine). The idea was to carve a new part of Canada out of the American colony. They sent two under-strength regiments and three sloops of war.

To combat this small force, an aroused Massachusetts gathered 1000 militiamen, an artillery unit and 40 ships. This thrown-together outfit, though composed mostly of the aged, under aged and infirm, was well armed and provisioned. In fact, their assembly almost bankrupted the state. Their saving grace was two United States men of war with their complements of Marines.

Only one successful battle was fought; it was won by the redoubtable Marines. Everything else was a disaster until, the fleet sunk, the militia scattered, the final stragglers scurried through the woods back to Boston.

The Continental Marines, later to be the United States Marines, fought like Marines have fought since. The battle was lost, but it was none of their doing. This was only the second real battle the Continental Marines had fought on land. It rates a sentence at most in the histories. It was close to the start of a long hard road and a proud tradition.



**Going Ashore** — *These Marines of the Sixth Division are almost relaxed as they land on the undefended beaches of Okinawa. Too bad it couldn't stay that way.*

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### Korean Police Action. It's called the “Forgotten War.”

Actual hostilities occurred from June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953. However, the war period was extended to January 31, 1955 by Congress to define a period of benefit eligibility in the wake of uneasy peace negotiations after July 27, 1953.

There were 6.8 million American men and women who served during the Korean War period, June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955. There were 54,200 deaths to Americans in service during the period of hostilities, June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Of these, 33,700 were actual battle deaths.

There were 7,140 POW's during the Korean War. Of these, 4,418 returned to the United States, 2,701 died, and 21 refused repatriation.

There have been 131 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor among Korean War veterans.

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### The Legend Grew That Day in France

by W. Thomas Smith Jr.

Every June, we Marines are reminded of a fateful day in 1918 wherein our reputation in the

modern era was enhanced by some unbelievable shooting, a bit of tooth-to-eyeball combat and a few Marine-friendly reporters on the Western Front in France. For on June 6 of that year, Marines attacked and destroyed Imperial German Army positions during the Battle of Belleau Wood, an old French hunting preserve near Chateau-Thierry, in a grisly close-quarters slugfest, after which the Germans, convinced the Marines were special American “shock troops” nicknamed their foes, teufelhunden, devil dogs.

What happened that day became the stuff of legend, or rather lore since the heroics of June 6, 1918 were confirmed by several sources, not the least of which was the enemy.

At one point during the fighting, Gunnery Sgt. Dan Daly, a two-time Medal of Honor recipient, dashed out in front of his Marines and shouted to them: “Come on you sons of bitches! Do you want to live forever?”

A German after-action report, read: “The Marines are considered a sort of elite Corps designed to go into action outside the United States. The high percentage of marksmen, sharpshooters, and expert riflemen, as perceived among our prisoners, allows a conclusion to be drawn as to the quality of the training in rifle marksmanship that the Marines receive. The prisoners are mostly members of the better class, and they consider their membership in the Marine Corps to be something of an honor. They proudly resent any attempts to place their regiments on a par with other infantry regiments.”

— Human Events

Striking Sixth



# Big Changes Made Training Corpsmen

## Corpsmen's Corner

by Jack Rice



### What's (Almost) New

Interesting information found when surfing the web involves the training of Hospital Corpsmen.

Many of you probably had the same experience as I. After boot camp in Bainbridge I was sent to the Hospital Corps School there. After a rather intensive 5 week course I was designated a full-fledged Corpsman (HAlc) and sent to US Naval Hospital, Norman, OK. The on-the-job training began there. Remember your experience?

Naval Hospital Corps School has been the only basic hospital corpsman school. The original school was established in 1913 at Great Lakes, IL. During World War II many other schools were established. The Great Lakes School closed after the last class graduated on July 27, 2011. The School has been relocated to the Medical Education and Training Campus (METC) at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. The US Navy is now training some if not all of their Hospital Corpsmen there.

This school is the largest medical education facility of its kind in the world. It opened in July, 2010 and is dedicated to the training of medical and dental personnel of the Army, Navy and Air Force. At any given time there are 8-9000 in training with about 45,000 being trained during the year. It Summer 2011

has a tremendous new campus including 750,000 square feet of educational facilities and three dorms for 1200 students each - two to a room with private baths. Things change and time marches on.

### The Cleveland Reunion

There was disappointment that only two Corpsman answered muster in Cleveland but you were well represented. Oscar and Claire Soifer and yours truly and Ray were there. Paul and Shirley Judd almost made it but Paul fractured a leg shortly before departure from Virginia and had to cancel his plans.

Also attending was Marguerite Brining and her family. She is the widow of Don Brining who probably held the Corpsmen's record for 6th Division reunions attended.

The Benedettis did a truly great job in managing the reunion and all of the events. They deserve a super THANKS for this. On to Portland, Oregon next year. I hope all can make plans to attend this reunion during a beautiful season. You will be hearing more about this.

### An Offer

Gerry Milillo, Corpsman with "A" Company, 6th Med Bn, and F-2-4, mailed me a number of pictures of Corpsmen and Marines he served with on the Canal, Okinawa and Japan. They were displayed in Cleveland. If any of the 4th were there they failed to see them. Anyway, Gerry wants to make these available to those with any interest. He lives in Columbus, NJ. Home phone number is 609 291 9445.

## Ladies Auxiliary Report

Barb McKnight



### No One Knew Anita Was President Garfield's Wife

The Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon was attended by 29 ladies including our special guest "Lucretia Garfield", wife of the 20th president of the US, James A. Garfield. Lucretia was portrayed by Anita Benedetti. It was an interesting and fun way to learn about the life of a past president of the US who was from Cleveland, Ohio.

My favorite part of every reunion is listening to the "War Stories" of the Marines. No matter how many times I have heard their stories I learn something more each time. There was a gentleman at the hospitality room who taped the "war stories" of some of the men and women to be saved in the Library of Congress. A special thanks to the sons and daughters who bring/accompany their fathers to the reunions, keep coming.

Thanks to the "Benedetti Sisters" who did a great job with the reunion. They were able to get the "Rockwell Automation Singers" to entertain us one evening in the hospitality room. There were 7 "barbershop type" singers who entertained us with songs of the 40's mixed with 6th Division

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## Guidelines! What Are Those?

Hi Joe, I am still working on my article for the newsletter and will send it on soon.... BUT, as I was going through old issues of the "Striking Sixth" to get some ideas of what to say I found something interesting.

None of us that presented places for the next reunion followed the guidelines that had been set in the past. I know since there are fewer Marines at the meetings to choose maybe they have lifted the requirement on how they choose the next reunions etc., but if we (all of us who presented suggestions) had realized there were guidelines and followed them maybe the men would have had more of their questions answered and fewer surprises when the reunion was planned.

In the 1996 March issue page 5 of the "Striking Sixth" there was a list of 16 Reunion Bid Guidelines. In the September 2002 issue page 11 there is another similar Reunion Guideline list with 18 guidelines. Maybe if you could put one of these lists or a combination of them both in the upcoming issue, hopefully those who present the possible reunion sites in the future will be better able to make their presentation and the men will be able to make a more informed decision on the reunion site.

I probably would not have noticed these list of guidelines had I not just offered a choice for a site. I had some of the guidelines but not all of them and no one else followed all the guidelines either.

If you would want to use these lists and do not have these issues with the pages I mentioned I can snail mail you a copy. Or if you can tell me how, maybe Harry can make a copy and email them to

you..

Just thinking of how to make the reunions better and give those who want to have a reunion some insight in to what is needed for an informed decision.

Thanks, and as they say... Semper Fi. Barb McKnight

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## No One Knew

*continued from page 7....*

History. After they finished their planned program we got them to lead us in a sing along with more 40's and Marine songs.

Of course, I have to say that the banquet was special. We had a great 17 piece band that played songs from the 40's and we loved it. Our guest speaker was another special Marine, Colonel Paul A Fortunato. Jr who grew up in Cleveland. If you get a chance to see the movie "Behind Enemy Lines" do so. Col. Fortunato was the helicopter pilot who rescued the survivor. Our son, Colonel Tom McKnight was invited to be the MC for the evening. It turned out that Tom and Col. Fortunato are friends who work together and they communicate daily on work related events, with Tom on the west coast at Miramar Marine Air Station and Col. Fortunato in the Pentagon.

I must correct the mistake I made listing the Ladies' Auxiliary officers in earlier newsletters. Our chaplain is Pat Scott, wife of George A. Scott. Sharon Woodhouse, our secretary, is the daughter of O. B. Aasland. Sharon is a hard worker and is the person in charge of our next reunion to be held in Portland, Oregon. Start budgeting your money and invite your children and grandchildren to join us for our next reunion in Portland. As soon as the exact date is announced, start checking for bargain airline tickets.

## Reunion Bid Guidelines

The following stipulations are necessary to have a bid considered by our committee for all future annual reunions. Additional information, if needed, can be obtained from the committee or by writing to the current president.

1. A signed contract by the hotel bidding for the reunion. Dates of the reunion must be specified. Room rates and taxes and how many guests can be accommodated.

4. Hospitality room must be furnished and give its size and description.

5. No charges for bringing in our own liquor and beverages to the hospitality room.

6. A complete description of the hotel, restaurant, swimming facilities, other entertainment.

7. Details and cost of the banquet, menu and number that can be seated.

8. Proposed events and their cost: bus tours, sporting events, golf, ball games, ladies events, fashion show, shopping areas, etc.

9. Traveling: access to reunion site via planes, rail, bus, auto and highway description.

10. Parking facilities for cars and vans and cost thereof, if any.

11. The site and arrangements for our memorial services.

12. Availability of meeting rooms for committees including Ladies Auxiliary.

13. The number of members that will be able to assist on the committee.

14. Detail all miscellaneous expenses that will have to be paid for.

15. An application for exemption from state and local taxes, wherever possible.

16. The number of free complimentary rooms. March 1996 Page 5



# The Benedettis Extend Their Thank You To All Who Came to the 2011 Reunion

We did it! It HAPPENED! And, according to the many kind words said to us, it was a success. That's what it was all about. To help our Marines, their families and their guests enjoy themselves at their 2011 annual reunion.

It made everything worthwhile to receive words like, "Congratulations to you on the superior, excellent work you had to do...to result in a very varied week's events. You gave all of us a great time, interesting trips...and a good hotel." Mrs. Arthur Newill Or, notes from Dan Accrocco, "I just wanted to let you (all) know what a great job you did with the reunion...In my short time on the ground I could tell your months of planning paid off. Nicely done."

From Fred and Dottie Addison, we received this uplifting note, "...it was an excellent reunion. Well planned and carried out. The hotel was beautiful (arcade & immediate areas), the Cleveland downtown skyline VERY impressive, tours enjoyable and the banquet was excellent, as was the program, music and entertainment. A job well done." Lastly, a comment that addressed our biggest concern, "Never did tell you how much I enjoyed the reunion. Even though it was small, it was great. Tours, friends, everything. I got to talk to almost everyone, which I have not been able to do in the last few years!!" Mrs. Joan Willauer.

Thank you to all who came. We wish we could have hosted many more 6th Division Marines and friends, but it couldn't have been any better attended. Our special thank you to our helpers

both inside the group as well as our local friends. And our wish for a happy, bad-weather-free, HEALTHY year until the next reunion of the SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION.

OOH RAH! SEMPER FIDELIS!!  
Alio, Angela, Anita, Melinda, Lisa  
Benedetti & Family,  
2011 Cleveland Reunion Hosts

P.S. We are calling out to anyone who might have taken photos at the reunion and especially of the 6th Division banners hanging in the Arcade. We'd sure appreciate a copy sent to us (either hard copy or digital at [amlbenedetti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amlbenedetti@sbcglobal.net)).

## Firms Provide Goodies For Reunion Marines

THE 6TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION OFFERS A HUGE THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES WHO DONATED TO THE CLEVELAND 2011 REUNION:

SAMUEL H. AND MARIA MILLER FOUNDATION – financial donation  
KASHI SALES – granola bars for goodie bags  
STAPLES – gift card for supplies  
DAVES SUPERMARKET – gift card for supplies  
GIOVANNI MEAT MARKET - wine  
ANNIN FLAGMAKERS – American & Marine flags to decorate with/raffle  
R.C. BIGELOW, INC. – tea bags for goodie bags and hospitality room  
SGT. GRIT – merchandise for Ladies Auxiliary sale  
UDDER CREAM – body cream for goodie bags  
NATURE'S PATH FOODS – granola bars for goodie bags and hospitality room  
GALLUCCI'S IMPORTING - wine



HEINEN'S FINE FOODS – Cleveland  
goodie bags

PARKER HANNIFIN CORPORATION – financial donation  
THE CLEVELAND BROWNS – key  
rings for goodie bags  
THE CLEVELAND INDIANS – paper  
supplies

THE CLEVELAND CLINIC –  
wheelchairs and items for goodie  
bags

HERSHEY CHOCOLATES –  
miniature candy bars for goodie  
bags/hospitality

WALGREENS – water for hospitality  
room

PHYSICIANS FOR PULMONARY  
CARE – office supplies, goodie bag  
items

A.T. & T. – t-shirt door prizes and cell  
phone raffle

MALLEY'S CHOCOLATES – gift  
certificate

We would especially like to thank the Association's own member, Kay Newill, for all the work she did in researching and writing letters to companies for donations. Many of the above donations were a result of her efforts.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*  
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For all of you who brought items to sell in the Ladies Auxiliary room, thank you. The money raised helped offset the cost of the hospitality room and general costs to put on the reunion.

# Benedetti Photos



*Dancing With a Pro  
Lisa Benedetti and Thom Kindt*



*Checking In – Pauline Roberts, Tiffany Woodhouse, Sharon Woodhouse,  
Kathy Copus, Sandy Rhoa*



*Meeting Time*



*Train Ride – Ken and Natalie Wells*



*At the Banquet*

Striking Sixth



# Benedetti Photos



*Dance Time*



*Cleveland and Lake Erie*



*Al and Angela Benedetti*



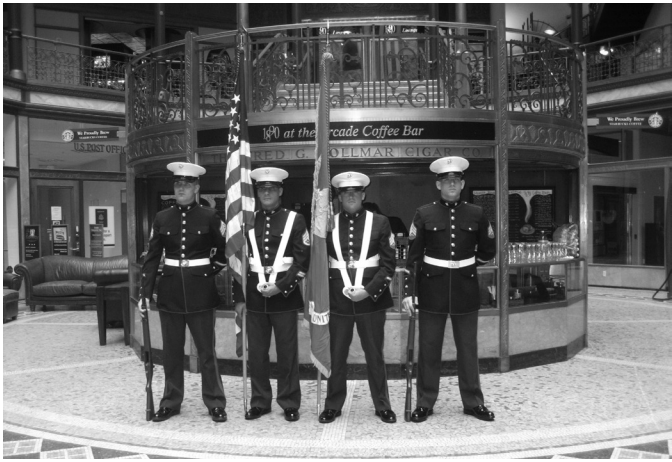
*At the Baseball Game – Gregg Woodhouse,  
Pauline and Dick Roberts, Al Benedetti*



*The Cleveland Girls – Mary Jo Hengst, Melinda,  
Lisa and Anita Beneditti*

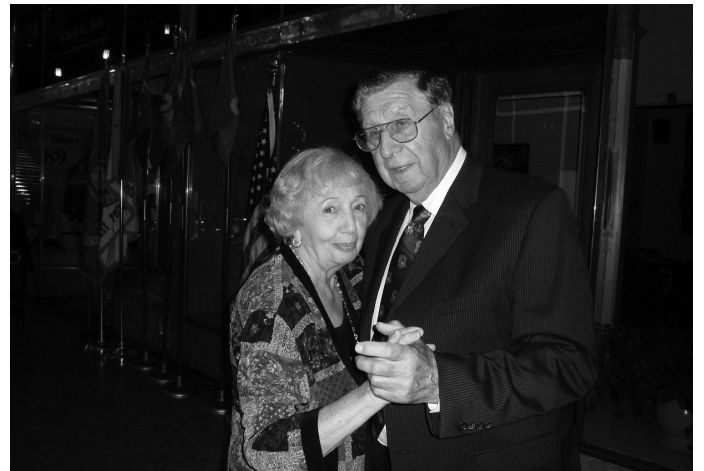


# Hengst Photos





# Woodhouse Photos



# Lineal Descendants Meeting September 9, 2011

## Minutes

A short meeting of the Lineal Descendants was held on Friday, 9/9/11, at 8:00 p.m. at the request of several non-member sons and daughters.

The meeting was opened and people welcomed by spokesperson Connie Houseweart at approximately 8:15p.m. In attendance were:

Dan Accrocco, Anita and Lisa Benedetti, David Hillner, Connie Houseweart, Bob and Carroll McGowan, Jim Rigby, Joan Roman, Thomas and Vincent Romano, Helen Simmons, Robin Starr, David and Glenn Stoel and Gregg, Sharon and Tiffany Woodhouse. No veterans or wives were there.

A discussion of how we communicate with each other or the Association in general commenced. We spoke of e-mails and the website as tools. Another tool is Facebook, which Helen Simmons said she would be glad to start for the Association.

A review of the term "lineal descendant" was asked for and Bob McGowan explained that "lineal descendants" are direct blood descendants of the 6th Marine Division Marines. They have voting privileges in the Association and can receive educational scholarships.

A few people thought that reducing the amount of days for the reunion might bring younger members in greater numbers, but it was pointed out that many people do not participate in the full 5 days anyway.

Someone wanted to know how members get the Striking Sixth Newsletter. The info was given that

it is an additional \$10.00 per year over and above the membership yearly dues. At that point, Joan Roman told us that currently the newsletter does NOT pay for itself and something would have to be done to trim the costs and/or raise more money to finance it.

The Romano brothers asked if our Lineal Descendants dues could be used to shore up the newsletter, but Joan pointed out that we don't pay separate dues, so we have no funds to give out. Tiffany Woodhouse wondered if the Ladies Auxiliary funds could be donated for the newsletter. It's an idea to explore.

A paper was passed around for members' e-mail addresses which Connie Houseweart will review and publish to us.

It was suggested we get an article into the next newsletter (This is it!).

Finally, Dan Accrocco commented that he believes the history of our fathers is the glue that holds us together, so we can help other descendants with that. He said he has a good working knowledge of how to start searching for individual histories of the veterans from the 6th Division and would be happy to direct people starting their searches. He also advanced the idea that our group might contact other Marine Divisions to see what their sons and daughters are doing.

Meeting ended approximately at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita Benedetti, Secretary  
September 18, 2011

Ed's Note: Lucianna Young, 6th Marine Division Web Master, has already opened a Facebook site for the association.



THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 NO. 3

DECEMBER, 1971

### NEW ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

MARVIN D. PERSKIE, Lt Colonel, USMC (Retired) has been elected President of the 6th Marine Division Association for 1972.

A graduate of Lafayette College, A.B. degree, magna cum laude and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he served as an Assemblyman in the New Jersey State Legislature representing Cape May County from 1965 to 1967. He also was a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1967.

Marv's illustrious Marine career includes 30 months overseas in World War II with the Marine Raiders on Bougainville, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade on Guam and the 6th Marine Division at Okinawa where he served as Company Commander of L/3/4.

During the Korean conflict he served as CO, Divisional Reconnaissance Company and XO, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

Among his many awards are the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation, 3 Presidential and 1 Navy Unit Citations and 5 battle stars.

### FIRST REUNION

Members of the "Striking Sixth", on hand in Atlantic City, New Jersey for the first reunion of the Division numbered over 300. All the familiar elements were there, headquarters in a large hotel, a reunion hall that was the focus of all activities, the color film of the Sixth Division on Okinawa, souvenirs, a banquet and dance, the hospitality rooms and a memorial service.

Featured speakers were, Major General William J. Whaling, CO-29th, Brigadier General Charles S. Robertson, HQ-22, Arthur W. Fonzio (1st Mar Div), Commissioner of Atlantic City, and Marvin D. Perskie, L-3-4, Master of Ceremonies.

A detail of South Jersey Marine Recruiters posted the colors at the banquet and conducted the solemn memorial services on Sunday morning concluding a very successful first reunion.

**Volume 1, No 3** — If anyone has 1 or 2, we need them for our archives. Contact editor. (512) 695-4295 or [joe.sempershorn@gmail.com](mailto:joe.sempershorn@gmail.com).

## MOVIE GOERS TAKE NOTE

For those of you who were in Cleveland for the recent 2011 reunion, please check out the two-minute trailer for the upcoming Avengers movie, due out May 4, 2012. Many of the scenes in the trailer clearly show East 9th street as cars blow up in front of the Medical Mutual building and police run for cover. East 9th street, Public Square, City Hall and part of Lakeside Avenue were used as locations for the film during August, just before you came. And, hey, Lolly the Trolley city tour goes – remember having to detour around another film crew shooting in the suburb of Bratenhahl? That location will be coming up in "I, Alex Cross." Movie goers will be seeing more of Cleveland as the city is being heavily promoted as a movie location site. To see "The Avengers" trailer, go to [www.cleveland.com/entertainment/movies](http://www.cleveland.com/entertainment/movies), click on the Avengers section (left margin of page), click on Michael Sangiacomo's article and the trailer is contained in it. Enjoy!

Anita Benedetti, Lineal Descendant

Striking Sixth



# 2011 REUNION LIST OF ATTENDEES:

We would like to thank all of the people who attended the 2011 Reunion in Cleveland, Ohio. While it was a smaller group, everyone got to talk to everyone and had a great time! See you in Portland, Oregon in 2012.  
The Benedetti Family

Aasland, O. B. (Orwald), Woodhouse, Sharon, Gregg, Tiffany

Abbott, Frederick W. & Mary

Accrocco, Dan & Joe

Addison, Fred & Dorothy (Dottie)

Allen, Burr & Ruth

Benedetti, Alio, Angela, Anita, Melinda, Lisa

Benedetti, Mark, Diane DeCamillo, Anthony, Jessica, Nicholas, Matthew

Bertram, Harry R. & Dolores

Brining, Carol & Richard Jordan

Brining, Marguerite & Kay Pierce

Crumbie, Watson & Margaret Anne

Essex, Marilyn

Essex Roman, Joan

Essex Starr, Robin

Foster, Edwin E. & Kathryn E.

Gianacakes, Thomas

Gromley, Marvin

Grover, Harry & Evelyn

Harris, Allen «Scotty» & Sally, Linda Garwick

Hengst, Mary Jo (Vail) & David

Holton, Rosemary & Richard Beither

Honis, Donald

Horvath, Andrew & Anne

Horvath, James, Lorraine, & Andrea, Lawrence, Jason, Heidi, Josh, & Linsie

Houseweart, Connie & David Hilner

Kemp Jr., Henry B.

Kinney, Herbert & Margaret

Kite, Joseph Wm. & Joseph L. Kite

Macek, Ralph & Julia, Mike Macek, Karen Walsh, Linda & Dennis Corona

Marsalek, Edward & Ann

Maust, Jo Ann

McAfee Jr., George

McAllister, Don

McCallum, Neal & Phuong Riles

McCorkle, Hershel

McGowan, Bob & Carroll

McKnight, Harry & Barb

Summer 2011

Mistretta, Salvatore & Anna

Monnett, Charles G., Jr. & Martha

Most, William & Mary Jane DeLozier

Newill, Kathleen

Oleksa, Dennis & Bonnie

Parker, Robert & Madeline

Petriello, S. L. (Salvatore)

Ponce, Peter & Evelyn V.

Reed, James, & Carol Bolka

Rice, Jack & Ray

Rigby, D.C. & Rigby, Jim & Melanie

Roberts, Richard M. & Pauline

Romano, Thomas & Vincent, Jr.

Russell, Bob & Janet

Simmons, Helen

Sinatra, Andrew A.

Smith, Fred & Barbara

Soifer, Oscar & Claire

Sorensen, Phillip & Vicki

Stoel, Albert & Jeannette

Stoel, Glenn

Stoel, David A.

Sulzmann, Paul & Patricia, Eleanor,  
& Michael

Summersgill, Bill & Doris

Tremblay, George & Lola/Bill

Tucker, Ralph E. & Margaret

Twigger, William J.

Vail, Maurice F. & Mary H.

Vojnar, Rudy

Vrettos, Peter & Chris

Walters, Harold E.

Welch, Oliver, & Cremeens, Judy

Wells, Dr. Kenneth D. & Natalie K.

Wendl, Debbie (John Oleksa)

Willauer, Joan

Willer, Richard & Joyce Knipp

# **SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

**Annual Meeting Minutes  
The Hyatt Regency at the Arcade  
Saturday, September 10, 2011**

**President Ed Marsalek called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed everyone.**

**President Marsalek appointed Phil Sorenson and Andy Sinatra as Sergeants at Arms.**

## **Roll Call**

### **Officers:**

**Secretary Lisa Benedetti took the roll call:**

President – Ed Marsalek	Present
President Elect – Sam Petriello	Present
Secretary – Lisa Benedetti	Present
Treasurer – Harold Walters	Present
Chaplain – Harry McKnight	Present
Editor – Joe Singleton	Absent and excused
Judge Advocate – Bob McGowen	Present
Membership Chairman – Jim White	Absent and excused
Public Relations Officer – Bill Pierce	Absent and excused
Service Officer – Dick Roberts	Present
Past President – Ed Marsalek	Present
Past President Emeritus – Andy Sinatra	Present

### **Unit Directors:**

4th Marines	George Scott - Absent
15th Marines	James McWalters - Absent
22nd Marines	Bob Russell
29th Marines	Henry B. Kemp
6th Mtr Trans Bn	Vacant
6th Med Bn	Jack Rice
6th Engr. Bn.	Vacant
6th Tank Bn	Albert Stoel & Sal Mistretta
6th Pioneer Bn	Marvin Gromley
6th Hq. Bn	Vacant
6th Recon Co.	Vacant
6th JASCO	Dick Roberts
1st Amphibs	George Tremblay

President Elect Marsalek stated that the units will elect their directors later in the meeting for 2012.

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

### **Proof of Meeting Notice:**

President Elect Marsalek stated that the Meeting Notice was published in the spring and summer issues of the Striking Sixth. He had a copy available.



Judge Advocate Bob McGowen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of October 14, 2010:

Ken Wells, seconded by Andy Sinatra, moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2010 Annual Meeting as published in the winter issue of the Striking Sixth. All in favor, motion carried.

### **REPORT OF OFFICERS:**

President: No report.

President Elect – Sam Petriello: The Finance Committee met on September 8, 2011 to conduct the annual audit of the funds of the Sixth Marine Division Association pursuant to Article X (9) of the By Laws of the Association. The Committee found that the financial records and reports appear to be in order.

Secretary Lisa Benedetti: The minutes of October 14, 2010 will be signed and certified now that they have been approved.

Treasurer Harold Walters: The financial report for January 1, 2011 to September 3, 2011 was reviewed (attached). The balance for total assets was \$67,229.87. President Marsalek stated the Association is in good shape. This will help to perpetuate the memory of the members. He has full confidence that we are doing nothing but going up.

Chaplain Harry McKnight: Flo Dornan was thanked and everyone else who helps to let him know who is ill or who has passed away.

Editor Joe Singleton: No report. President Marsalek stated that Robin Essex Starr is working with Joe to learn how it is done. The Striking Sixth is running in the red, but the Association has enough money and this is a very important means of communication for all members.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan: In 2009 the Association was reorganized and registered in Pennsylvania after being dissolved in New Jersey in order to allow lineal descendants the right to vote. Now the bylaws will need to be modified slightly to allow for the Association to be classified as a charitable association. The changes will be published and voted on next year.

Membership Chairman Jim White: President Ed Marsalek reported for Jim White. Jim would like to continue as Membership Chairman. The membership manager's report for 2011 was reviewed (attached). The total membership is 2,272 with the various classifications. The regular members total is 1,450. More lineal descendants are joining the Association, which is good news. Please make sure to notify Membership Manager Flo Dornan of changes in address or the passing of any member or family members in order for her to keep up to date records.

Public Relations Bill Pierce: No report. President Ed Marsalek stated that Bill Pierce is doing a great job. Our website is one of the best with all kinds of information. Bill would also like to continue as chairman.

Service Officer Dick Roberts: As he has just started the job, he has no report at this time.

Past President Ed Marsalek: Ed stated he has been wearing many different hats due to circumstances, but he was honored to do so. He saluted everyone who came and the relatives who took the time also. He thanked everyone for the privilege of serving and thanked his wife, Ann for helping him with his duties.

Past President Emeritus Andy Sinatra: No report.

#### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

2011 Reunion: Lisa Benedetti thanked everyone who helped on this year's reunion and everyone who came. There are 48 vets and 121 other attendees. Several couples and families had to cancel in the last few weeks due to health and other reasons. Notices of the reunion were placed in three veterans' magazines, American Legion, Leatherneck and VFW. A lot of interest was generated from these notices. Media notices were also sent out and as a result Tom Swope from WELW radio station has been in attendance interviewing veterans. These interviews will become part of the Library of Congress and therefore a permanent record.

Phil Sorenson, seconded by Harry Grover, moved to award a plaque to the Benedetti Sisters for organizing the 2011 Reunion. All in favor, motion carried.

Membership: Ed stated that as previously reported there are 2274 members. He urged everyone to get their children to sign up for membership to offset the veteran losses and so that they can become more knowledgeable about the Association.

Scholarship: Sam Petriello reported that at one point the scholarships were going to be stopped because the Association had not given any more money to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation for awhile. He worked with the new administration and was able to get the Foundation to agree to continue to give scholarships in the Association's name to lineal descendants. Currently the balance is \$107,890 and the Association sent \$15,000 last year. Sam read a letter from Lea McFall, the Development Officer that detailed how the scholarships would be awarded. The Foundation is now located in Alexandria, Virginia and Ms. McFall can be reached at 703-549-0060 if there are any questions. Donations can also be made in the Sixth's name.

#### **Elections:**

The Nominating Committee for officers consisted of Ed Marsalek, Andy Sinatra and Phil Sorenson.

Ed Marsalek read the nominations for all officers and stated that all had accepted. Several officers are now lineal descendants.

President –	Sam Petriello
President Elect –	Connie Houseweart
Secretary –	Lisa Benedetti
Treasurer –	Jim Rigby
Chaplain –	Harry McKnight
Editor –	Joe Singleton
Judge Advocate –	Bob McGowan
Membership Chairman –	Jim White
Public Relations Officer –	Bill Pierce
Service Officer –	Dick Roberts



Ed Marsalek asked if anyone else was interested, as nominations could be taken from the floor.

Ken Wells, seconded by Phil Sorenson, moved to cast a unanimous vote. All in favor, motion carried.

Ed Marsalek stated that for the election of the Unit Directors he would read off the current director and ask each unit to name a director at this time.

#### **Unit Directors Elected:**

4th Marines	George Scott
15th Marines	Ozzie Aasland
22nd Marines	Bob Russell
29th Marines	Henry B. Kemp
6th Mtr Trans Bn	Vacant
6th Med Bn	Jack Rice
6th Engr. Bn.	Burr Allen
6th Tank Bn	Albert Stoel and Sal Mistretta
6th Pioneer Bn	Marvin Gromley
6th Hq. Bn	Vacant
6th Recon Co.	Vacant
6th JASCO	Dick Roberts
1st Amphibs	George Tremblay

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

##### **Presentations for Reunion 2012:**

Portland, Oregon - Sharon and Tiffany Woodhouse gave the presentation for Portland. Sharon stated they are honored to have the group come if selected. They are looking at the middle of September and there are two hotels she had contacted, but will have to contact them again to give them revised figures after the numbers from this reunion are finalized. One hotel which is similar to this Hyatt is also in a historic property and would be \$110 per night and is in downtown Portland. There is no sales tax in Oregon, but here are hotel taxes. Again there is no complimentary shuttle service to the hotel from the Portland Airport, but there is a light rail service. Many of the items that are in place for the Cleveland Reunion would be similar for Portland, like the liquor service and parking fees. There are many wonderful places to see including wineries. Discussion was held.

Branson, Missouri – Phil Sorenson gave the presentation for Branson. He and his wife live in Branson and they have contacted a planner for help with this reunion. The hotel would be the Clarion which is on Highway 76. The reunion would be held October 11 – 16, 2012 which is Thursday to Tuesday. There is free parking and pools available. There are over 100 shows per day for all age groups and taste to choose from. The Association can bring in its own liquor for the hospitality room. The room rate is \$94 per night. There is a Branson Airport that several smaller airlines fly into. The Springfield Airport is farther away, but most airlines fly into it.

George McAfee commented that Branson hosts many military reunions. Walter Crumbie stated he saw a great show there recently.

Someone asked what it would cost for the planner. Phil said it would be a percentage of all the events. There would be no upfront costs. Discussion was held.

Tampa, Florida – Ed Marsalek reported that there was a contract prepared without a solid room rate and since there were no volunteers to coordinate this location, he did not think it should be considered. It would be in conjunction with the Raiders Reunion, but held separately.

Orlando, Florida – Barb McKnight gave the presentation for Orlando. She stated there is a military resort called the Shades of Green for R & R and is located on Disney property. Parking is \$5.00 per night and there is no tax. The group would get a lot of respect from the other visitors. The time would have to be in July or August. This would allow sons and daughters who cannot come during the school year to participate. There is free transportation to the shows. The room rate is \$123 per night. The Orlando Airport services the airport and has all major airlines. Discussion was held.

President Marsalek thanked all the presenters. A hand vote was held for each of the three locations under consideration. Sergeant at Arms Andy Sinatra took the count.

Branson – 8

Orlando – 3

Portland – at least 14

President Marsalek announced the winning reunion location would be Portland, Oregon for 2012.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Membership Manager's Contract:**

President Ed Marsalek stated that Flo Dornan presented a contract for 2012 for the same rate of \$300 per month as the last two years. She does an excellent job of keeping the membership records. The Board approved the contract at its meeting.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the benediction.

President Elect Ed Marsalek thanked everyone for coming knowing that it is not easy.

Adjournment 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by,

Lisa Benedetti

Secretary

Attachments to Minutes:

## **6th MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

### **Financial Report**

**Jan 1, 2011 to Sept. 13, 2011**

#### **INCOME**

Balance Forward from 2010	\$1,983.97
Interest	346.33

#### **Received from Dornan**

Dues	1,745.00
Subscription for Newsletter	2,885.00
Donation, General	815.00
Donation, Newsletter	-
Donation, Directory	50.00
Donation, Memorial Markers	305.00
Sub Total, Dornan	5,800.00
Reunion 2010	1,683.73
Other	20,340.34
<b>TOTAL Income</b>	<b>\$28,170.40</b>

#### **EXPENSE**

Flo Dornan Contract	2,449.83
Bill Pierce PR	364.50
Newsletter	6,393.80
Memorial Markers	-
Fees	-
Supplies	259.10



Postage	49.29
Donations	-
2011 Reunion	2,500.00
Directory	2,707.87

### **Investments, CD & M Market**

TOTAL Expense	\$14,724.39
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Check Book Balance	\$15,429.98	Balance from past year
Money Market To Date	\$51,799.89	\$51,799.89 Total, Money Market on 9/3/2011

The CD was closed 8/22/2011 and

Total Assets \$67,229.87  
transferred to Money Market

Harold E. Walters, Treasurer

TO: Jim White, Membership Chairman

August 30, 2011

FROM: Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

### **MEMBERSHIP MANAGER 2010 REPORT**

After removing deceased members, those we have lost and those who have requested to be dropped, we have 2,240 names on the roster. The following is based on those 2,240 names as of August 29, 2011.

#### **Membership:**

Regular Life Members	1,297
Regular Annual Members - Current*	153
Associate Life Members	607
Associate Annual Members – Current*	40
Associate Life Lineal Descendants	84
Associate Annual Lineal Descendants – Current*	77
Organizations: 6; Honorary Members 8	14
Current* - Dues are paid for 2008 to 2012	
Total Membership	2,272

We have 353 members whose newsletters have been returned by the USPS without a new or forwarding address. We must assume they are in nursing facilities or unreported deceased but we will not know until we receive notification from next-of-kin or a friend. There are 55 members who requested they be dropped from the roster for various reasons – mostly because of health or their friends are gone and they don't know anyone any more. As a matter of interest we have 568 widows who are associate members and 154 who are current in payment of the newsletter. We have stopped reporting email addresses on the web site because too many were not accurate and changes weren't being reported.

#### **Newsletter Subscriptions:**

The following are the number of currently paid subscribers to the newsletter by year as of August 29, 2011:

2007	136	2011	225
2008	125	2012	105
2009	106	2013	52
2010	166		
2014-2021			45

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Dornan



## Chaplain's Report

*Harry McKnight*

Another reunion is over and for the most part it was good. Just a few snafus, but none too serious. The hospitality room was run well. We had all we wanted to drink and good snacks. Barb and I were impressed with the good variety of items the Ladies had made again. The Military display was excellent. Al's and the Benedetti gals' hard work was evident.

At the Memorial we had 133 names called and the bell rang for our lost friends. There were four past presidents: Martin Essex, Pete Howell, Tom McKinney and George Niland. There were 13 wives, 5 widows and one Corpsman. Hope the list of names will be shorter at Portland.

I am up to date with my letters to wives and husbands. I include some personal remarks and a poem or two. My granddaughter asked me recently how I manage to come up with these poems. I told her I just think of what I want to say and come up with a rhythm and work at it. Some are limericks like I jotted off for our three honorary ladies, Pam, Joan and Brenda. "There once were three lady Marines, who always were quick on the scenes, who worked through the night, to get things just right, for the rest of us older Gyrenes."

Back in high school I enjoyed my English teacher's assignments to read poems. I was especially interested in Wordsworth's "Ode to Immortality."

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting, the soul that rises with us, our life's star, hath had elsewhere it's setting and cometh from afar, not in utter nakedness, nor in complete forgetting, but trailing clouds of glory do we come from God, who is our

*continued on page 23....*

## The Historian's Corner by Laura Lacey

Marines have always had a unique mission-- from the early days as the on-board ships fighting force, to leading amphibious and air assaults. Their mission statement says it all: "shall, at any time, be liable to do duty in the forts and garrisons of the United States, on the seacoast, or any other duty on shore, as the President, at his discretion, shall direct."

In this special capacity, charged with carrying out duties given to them directly by the President of the United States, the Marine Corps serves as an all-purpose, fast-response task force, capable of quick action in areas requiring emergency intervention."...

As the same article accurately explains:

"The Marines argue that they do not and should not take the place of the other services, any more than an ambulance takes the place of a hospital. Nonetheless, when a pressing emergency develops, the Marines essentially act as a stopgap, to get into and hold an area until the larger machinery can be mobilized. The opinions of other military men and politicians have, at times, differed, and President Harry S. Truman considered abolishing the Corps as part of the 1948 reorganization of the military. As Truman said, "The only propaganda machine that rivals that of Stalin is that of the United States Marine Corps." Truman, a former U.S. Army artillery captain, felt that the Marines were useless, despite their many successes in World War Two and Korea." (<http://www.montney.com/marine/history.htm>)

The Marine Corps has managed to continue to flourish despite its detractors, because when trouble comes the Marines fulfill their mission, in places as varied as Tripoli, Mexico, Okinawa and Fallujah. One could argue that it is not the institution

but the individual Marines who keep the promise of the Corps and many of them have themselves performed in unique circumstances not often associated with storming beaches or securing a bridge. Some men served in capacities that are still unknown to the public, others, the nation learned about years after their service like the Code-talkers. Another group of Marines who have been little talked about are those who served their country on covert assignments.

When one thinks of the World War II Marine, they immediately think of the jungle islands and bloody sands of the Pacific. However, some Marines served in other roles during the war. They served on ships all around the world, in embassies, as advisors and as members of the intelligence community. With the formation of the OSS, Marines served in commando and clandestine operations around the world.

Men such as Captain James Roosevelt and Evans Carlson, whose commando operations set the stage for what would later evolve into units like Force-Recon and the SEALs. Men like Colonel William Eddy, Captain Walter Mansfield and actor/Private Sterling Hayden served as spies and saboteurs often behind enemy lines.

One of the most interesting of these Marine operatives was a man by the name of Colonel Pierre Ortiz. He was an American and a Frenchman, with a Spanish name; he was incredibly handsome and spoke six languages. As a young man he run away from school in France and joined the French Foreign Legion, where he served with distinction for two tours. As a legionnaire he was a POW during the early part of WWII. He then escaped and made his way back to the United States to recover and then enlisted in the Marine Corps.

*continued on page 23....*

Striking Sixth



## **“We’re All Marines, Past and Present,” She Explains, “It’s the bond We All Share”**

My dad Angelo was in the hospital in Tacoma, Washington. A former Marine and veteran of the Korean War, he was having his third knee replacement surgery. A long and very painful operation was going to be made even worse because dad was going through it alone. There wasn't even anyone to drive him to the hospital, so he had arrived that morning by cab.

The thought of my dad lying there alone was more than I could stand.? I picked up the phone and called information for the Puyallup, Washington, Marine Corps recruiting station, where I joined the Marines ten years before. I thought that, if I could talk to a Marine, maybe one of them would visit my dad.

A man answered the phone, “United States Marines, Sergeant XXXX. May I help you?”

I proceeded to tell him who I was and that my father was also a former Marine and 100 percent disabled from the Korean War. I explained that he was in the hospital, alone, without anyone to visit and asked if Sergeant XXXX would please go and see him.

Without hesitation, he answered, “Absolutely.” Then I asked, “If I send flowers to the recruiting station, would you deliver them to my dad when you go to the hospital?”

“Ma’am, I will be happy to take the flowers to your dad,” he replied. The next morning, I sent the flowers. That evening, I phoned my dad.

“I was just waking up when I thought I saw two Marines in their dress blue uniforms standing at the foot of my bed,” he told me excitedly. “I thought I had died and gone to Heaven. But they were really there!”

I began to laugh, partly at his excitement, but also because he didn't even mention his operation.

He told me again and again how sharp they looked and how all the nurses thought he was so important.

“But how did you ever get them to do that?” he asked me.

“It was easy. We’re all Marines, Dad, past and present. It’s the bond we all share.”

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### **The Historian’s Corner**

*continued from page 22....*

Wouldn't you have liked to have been there to see the drill instructors' expression the first time he showed up for inspection wearing all of his Legion medals? A letter was quickly sent to Marine Corps Headquarters and within a short time he became an officer and was sent to do interesting work.

He would be sent to North Africa by William Donovan as an “observer.” He was wounded and returned to the States for his next assignment. He was inserted behind enemy lines where he ran around in France sabotaging the German efforts — blowing bridges, spying and making contact with the Resistance, all the while in full uniform. This operation was known as Union I. Later Union II would be executed and he would be reinserted into France with four other Marines. They brought with them arms, expertise and information for the Resistance. After a series of adventures he and his men were captured but not before creating so much havoc that the Germans assumed that a regiment of Marines had been parachuted into France. He served out the rest of the war in various POW camps.

Ortiz served in Africa, the Middle East and Europe. He was a European Theater Marine yet was training on the Pacific Coast preparing to be inserted into, then, French Indo-China for a similar mission to Union

I and II when the war ended. He is one of the most decorated Marines of WWII and yet perhaps one of the least known. He lived in remarkable times and did remarkable things.

He went on to a career in Hollywood, staring with the likes of John Wayne. Two movies were loosely made about his exploits-- Operation Secret and 13 Rue Madeline. He was one of the early supporters of Toys for Tots and retired as a colonel. He earned the Legion of Merit with a V, the Navy Cross with a star in lieu of a second Navy Cross, the Croix de Guerre with two palms and two stars, the Croix de Guerre with two palms and one star, the Order of the British Empire, the Purple Heart with one star and several other French medals. Marines have served in “every clime and every place” and they have definitely lived up to that motto for 236 years. As well, often they have preformed duties that we don't think of Marines as doing. Colonel Pierre Julian Ortiz is one such Marine. (He is also the subject of my next book.)

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### **Chaplain’s Report**

*continued from page 22....*

home.” You can see this influence in my poem of “Immortality.” I'm working on one called “The ringing of the Bell.” I hope it is ready for Portland.

The singing group that sang for us in the hospitality room was nice. Sam asked them to play his favorite and invited them to stay. And they did, and sang on. The 17-piece band played our Music and Lisa showed off her dancing skills. May the Good Lord be with us that we all will meet again at Portland.

—Harry McKnight, H-3-29, Chaplain

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### **Recession Joke**

*Exxon-Mobil laid off 25  
Congressmen.*

This is to inform you that my grandfather, Joe T. Bledsoe, 6th Marine Div., 29th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, "I" Company, passed away on Aug. 18, 2011. His wife, Alberta Bledsoe requested that I pass this information to you. He was a proud Marine who loved those he served with. If you have any further questions, please feel free to respond. Respectfully, Clay Turner <csraservice@gmail.com>



Dear Bill (Pierce), I thought I would drop you a note about placing the marker on the grave of Jack Mullins. Unfortunately, the weather has been and continues to be too miserable for his surviving family members to attend. Jack's remains were sent back here in 1948 and for years afterward, his brothers kept an American flag flying on his grave. However, neither have been able to get up there (like most of the mountain cemeteries, Jack is buried on a hill) for the last few years. His two brothers are in their eighties and nineties and are wheelchair-bound, but they wanted to be at the bottom of the hill when the rest of us go up to place the marker. In addition to the plaque, which I had mounted on a marble stone, I am placing an American flag on his grave so that it will at least be there for Memorial Day. If the weather permits, we will place the stone on Jack's grave then. Again, I will send you a picture when we finally do this. I also wanted to mention something to you about your reunion this year, and you might want to forward this to whomever is responsible for

the program. I took a look at the itinerary and noticed that nothing is scheduled for Lake View Cemetery. Some of the people coming to the reunion might want to visit there as it has the tomb of President James Garfield and many other well-known figures. John Hay, President Lincoln's personal secretary and close adviser is buried there, John D. Rockefeller is buried there, and the only memorial to famous FBI Agent Elliot Ness is there (he was cremated). Ness was the Police Chief in Cleveland after he left the FBI. Also, another great place to visit in Cleveland is the Western Reserve Historical Society, probably the best museum in Ohio. I did a lot of research there for my last book and, in fact, I used to live just south of Cleveland in Akron. Hope you are doing well. Bruce Hopkins - bhopkins@setel.com



I would like to report that my Grandfather, CPL. James William Musgrove 22-6, 1943-1946, passed away at the VA Hospital in Biloxi, MS. on August 9, 2011. Thanks, Brandi Lightsey. Houston, TX



Mr. Singleton, Under the advice of Mr. Pierce, I'm requesting that you post the following, in the Sixth Marine Division newsletter: I'm trying to locate, or at least find, any information about a Pfc. Eugene Bart Kennedy that served in the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, 6th Marine Division, 6th. Pioneer, H&S company, during the invasion of Guam, Okinawa, and the surrender of the Japanese in Tsingtao China. My wife, and her mother, found a letter written to my wife's

grandmother after she passed, from Pfc. Kennedy that not only touched our hearts, but probably my wife's grandmother's as well, since she kept the letter for so long. It wasn't a "personal" letter, it was a thank you letter for some ice cream that was given to the troops on a train, by my wife's grandmother, that stopped in Toyah, Texas. If you have any information regarding Pfc. Eugene Bart Kennedy, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Craig Flathouse, Corpus Christi, Texas 361-385-6557 craig.flathouse@gmail.com



To: "webmaster@texasnova.com" <webmaster@texasnova.com>  
Subject: REPORT DEATH My grandfather, Bradley M. Safreed, passed away on December 22, 2010. I apologize this information was not reported in time for your reunion. Pepa, this is what I called him, looked forward to the reunions each year. As his health deteriorated he was unable to attend in physical form but I know he was there in great spirit. His Marine family and experience was an integral part of my grandfather's convictions. This ultimately led him to teach us what it means to be an American. Please thank all of those who protected my grandfather allowing me to know him and share a great life learning from him. I have been blessed to have had him in my life for as long as I did. God bless each of you, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Thank you for all that you do. Camille Fogleman (granddaughter) <Cdfogleman@gmail.com>





From Sgt, Grit: In regards to other people wearing the “Eagle Globe & Anchor. In my opinion, other than Corpsmen, the units I feel “may” have been able to rate the “Eagle Globe & Anchor” are the Seabee battalions assigned “directly” to Marine Corps Engineer regiments (17th,18th,19th and 20th) during WW2. After Navy boot, these men were issued Marine uniforms, trained with Marines, and subject to Marine Corps rules and regulations, being directly absorbed into the Engineer Regiments. They were integral parts of the Marine assault shore-party landing and fighting operations in the Pacific. As one WW2 Marine told me. “I fought side by side with the Seabees on Iwo Jima. I was with the 4th Eng. Bn. as a Demolition Marine. The CBs were always there when you needed them They were not like Marines, “(THEY WERE MARINES)” Unfortunately, this is a moot point, as most of them are long gone now. Semper Seabees, Son of a deceased WW2 Seabee. JOHN R.



Dear Sir/Madam, I would like to report the death of Dr. Frank H. Haigler Jr. who died on July 28, 2011. He was the in the 22 Marine Regiment, 3rd Battalion, L Company. He was the commander of L Company from the middle of May until the end of hostilities. In looking at the TAPS index, the information is quite brief so I wanted to give you the data in a succinct

format. Frank was an enthusiastic supporter of the Marine Corps and attended many reunions, he was as much of a Marine in 2011 as he was in 1945. If you would like any additional information please feel free to contact me by e-mail or telephone. Sincerely, Kevin P. Donohue, Major, USMCR, Phone 949-341-7803, wakanta@cox.net



Hello, My Dad, Edward Hollander, was a proud member of the Sixth Marine Division. He passed on July 22, 2011. He shared many stories with us about his experiences in the Marines. One of the most touching is the story of him burying his best friend Ike Fowler on Okinawa. Ike was killed on the last day of the war. Thanks, Dave Hollander



Hi Joe, My name is Rick Hyman and I am an Associate Member. I have an item my Dad brought back from the war and it has several names on it. I was wondering if there is a way this could be shown in the newsletter to see if anyone of these guys are still around. I would like to get the full story about this from any one of them if possible. I am attaching the file for your information and use if this is possible. Thanks, Rick Hyman, Snellville, GA. Ed’s Note: Whatever it was Rick, it got lost somewhere in the aether. If you care to try again we’ll run it.

**Recession Joke**

*When Bill and Hillary travel together, they now have to share a room.*

**MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER**

I understand the Sixth had a very successful reunion in Cleveland and I wish I could have joined you all. From lists I have received such as email address changes, I believe we had many prospective lineal descendants in attendance who are not members. Dads and grandpas need to check with their sons and grandsons to be sure they are in fact a member of the Association. Attending the reunions without being a member doesn’t help the Association; those prospective members can be very important to the Association. Another reminder: Please check your newsletter label for your status as a member (dues) and your subscription to the newsletter.

The last newsletter resulted in an unusual number of returns for “unknown” or “unable to forward” addresses. Once again I am asking if any members know of a friend who is now deceased or has moved in with family or assisted living, please let me know so I can correct our records and see that the membership records are correct and that newsletters can be delivered to them.

The Ladies Auxiliary also discussed the possibility of members who may no longer be able to afford to pay for the newsletter. These times are difficult financially for many people and they would like to be sure any member who wants to receive a newsletter is able to get one. If you know of anyone in that situation, please let me know and we will make sure they receive a newsletter. Most of our Marines are life members but if they need help with dues, the Auxiliary would like to help keep members current. This service would be absolutely confidential.

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS OF 10/13/2011**

Regular Members	1,402
Associate Members	634
Lineal Descendants	212
Honorary Members	8
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>2,257</b>

## **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.

ALEXANDER, Joseph (NM)	6th Engineers	8/18/1999
BELLEZZA, Anthony V.	29th Mar-2-D	7/05/2011
BLEDSON, Joe T.	29th Mar-3-I	8/18/2011
BOHN, Marian A.	Wife of Claude H. Bohn	8/31/2010
BRYAN, Frances	Associate	7/16/2011
BUCCIERI, Alfred	22nd Mar-WPNS	2/00/2011
BUCCIERI, Victoria	Wife of Alfred Buccieri	8/00/2010
CANADAY, Jr., Richard D.	22 Mar-2-F	2/24/2011
COLEMAN, William D. (NM)	22nd Mar-1-B	2/06/2006
DIMOPLON, James	6th Pioneer Bn-C	12/16/2010
DOLCI, Paul	Associate	Unknown
EVANS, Carlisle E.	22nd Mar-1-B	5/31/2011
GAMBILL, JR., Charles J.	15th Mar-4-L	8/10/2011
GEORJANC, Frank	22nd Marines	1989
HAGENAUGH, Iris	Wife of George Hagenaugh	Unknown
HAIGLER, JR., Frank H. MD	22nd Mar-3-L	7/28/2011
HOLLANDER, Edward (NM)	6th Marine Division	7/22/2011
HOWELL, Harold E "Pete"	29th Mar-2-F	7/20/2011
JUSTICE, Martha	Wife of Paul Justice	7/27/2011
LANNO, Nick	29th Mar-2-D	Unknown
LAWRENCE, Ginny	Spouse of John Lawrence	8/03/2011
MUSGROVE, James W.	22nd Marines	8/09/2011
OLEKSA, Florence	Widow of John Oleksa	0/00/2003
OLEKSA, John (NM)	6th Marine Division	0/00/1983
PETERSON, Vernid E.	22nd Mar-Wpns	7/26/2011
ROMANO, Sr., Vincent T. (NM)	6th Transport	5/14/1997
RZEPKA, Harry	22nd Mar-3	7/04/2011
STEPHAN, Laurence A.	22nd Mar-2-G	Unknown
STINE, Cedric William	6th Marine Division	10/18/1996
STRUPEL, Clifford J.	22nd Mar-I	7/13/2011
WALTERS, Bernice	Spouse of Harold Walters	4/01/2011
WILKINS, Annie	Widow of Claud Wilkins	8/01/2011

(NM) designates non-member.

## **NEW MEMBERS** **WINTER 2011**

### **DONATIONS**

### **GENERAL FUND:**

Charles W. Collins  
Stephanie Crowley  
Ernest Daly  
June P. Lestelle

FAIRBURN, Glynn A., ID #6153  
Eloise  
4th Marines-1-HDQ - Regular  
1281 Brownswitch Rd  
Slidell, LA 70461-1630  
(985) 643-1378

GRAYHEK, LeRoy, ID #6156  
Mary  
4th Marines (4th Raiders) - Regular  
4513 S Helena St  
Spokane, WA 99223  
(509) 443-0671

LYNCH, Jack E., ID #6157

Carolyn  
Son of Lester E. Owen  
29th Mar-1-B – Life LD  
1388 Vanzant Bend Rd  
Belvidere, TN 37306-2563  
(931) 967-4030

MORRISSETTE, Raymond ID #6158  
Rita L.  
22nd Mar-F (60 mm mortar)–  
Regular  
301 Milliken Blvd Apt 1905  
Fall River, MA 02721-1621  
(508) 672-1153

OLEKSA, Dennis, ID #6154  
Bonnie  
Son of John Oleksa  
6th Marine Division – Assoc LD  
296 Plymouth-Springmill Rd  
Plymouth, OH 4865  
(567) 224-0530  
ddoleksa@gmail.com

SCHROER, Paula S., ID #5976  
Kenton  
Daughter of Dale C. Bieber  
JASCO –Associate LD Annual to Life  
815 Creekmoor Pond Lane  
Raymore, MO 64083  
(816) 318-8608  
puravida48@att.net

SHARP, Kevin H., ID #5996  
Holly  
Grandson of Jasper "Jack" Gray  
22nd Mar-3-L  
Associate LD Annual to Life  
906 Bowring Park  
Nashville, TN 37215  
(615) 736-2774  
Kevinsharp122@me.com

SLANEY, Richard, ID #6155  
Laurar Dargles  
Son of Ernest G. Slaney  
6th Pioneer-C – Assoc LD Life  
10931 Cherry Bark Rd  
Richmond, VA 23237-3978  
(804) 425-0495  
r.slaney@comcast.net



# Facebook Traffic Slowly Increasing



## Sixth Marine Division Association

56 monthly active users ↓3 since last week

46 people like this ↑0 since last week

0 wall posts or comments this week ↑0 since last week

25 visits this week ↓4 since last week

Mary  
Dolan  
Posted  
this  
Photo  
Of Her  
Dad



Mary Dolan's  
Wedding



Connie  
Criscitello's  
latest  
T-shirt  
design.



Karen  
Hayes  
Levine  
also got  
married.

Tiffany Woodhouse is shown at front left. Tiffany, who says she is a supporter of the association, posted this photo on the Sixth Division FaceBook site. Others in the photo are right bottom, Marie Pistecky; upper left is Christy Smaby and Stacie Phillips to the right. The FaceBook site is the brainchild of Lucy Young, our internet web master.

## Membership Application and Change of Address

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse 1st Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt/Bldg/Lot \_\_\_\_\_

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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) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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

*Subscription and annual dues are based on calendar year.*

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Striking Sixth Newsletter

Winter 2011

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**Marine Corps Snapshots** — The coffin-bearing scene may be a ceremony in the Middle East. Perhaps a fallen Marine is being returned to the States. The two Marines in another photo may be connected to this unit. The officer at left must be at least field grade judging by the fruit salad on his cap brim. The sergeant major looks like a sergeant major is supposed to look but almost never does. Both men are jump qualified and possibly recon types.