

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 36, No. 2

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

Summer 2012

### There's Knowing, There's Going, And Then There Is Fun

We all know by now that the Portland Reunion begins on September 17 and ends on the 22nd. We've been told several times that the action will be at the Hilton Executive Tower. We know already that it will be loads of fun with a little business mixed in. If we don't know, somehow, we are repeating the same five pages of forms inside that we ran in the spring. This is for latecomers.

What we may not know yet follows:

You can get to Portland Oregon by car, train, bus or airplane. The Hilton Hotel is located in downtown Portland on the corner of SW 6th Avenue and Taylor. We hope to have someone to pick up people the first 2-3 days of the reunion at the airport. Otherwise, you can take MAX (light rail) from the airport or a taxi. The hotel does have a pool for swimming. There are several places you can rent bicycles in Portland as it is a very "bike friendly" city.

There are places to sit along the river bank to watch people and the river activity that is about six blocks from the hotel. There are a few places that rent boats and fishing gear. Hood River is known for it's windsurfing on the Columbia River.

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### Connie Takes Over As New President At 2012 Reunion

This is either the beginning of the end or the end of the beginning for the Sixth Marine Division. The forthcoming Reunion at Portland will be the first to welcome a new president who was not a member of that storied Marine unit.

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### Pounding Okinawa —

*There would have been no battle without the navy. The victory would have been even more costly without naval fire support. Top photo shows a cruiser firing its 8-inch main battery at targets on the island. At bottom is the heavyweight, a battleship's 16-inch guns doing the same thing, only more so. Too bad we can't show you the results, but they would only be immense craters. The targets were sometimes provided by the 6th Division's JASCO contingent. You can ask Ed Marsalek how they did it. AP Photo at top.*

#### Our Facebook Page:



Sixth Marine Division Association

New Likes	Talking About This	Weekly Total Reach
0	9 -10.0%	182 -12.9%



SIXTH MARINE DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION  
2010-2011  
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## President's Message

By Sam Petriello

For many years, this great newsletter that you are reading has been the result of the hard work and dedication of Joe Singleton. Joe is one of a long line of skillful editors of the Striking Sixth, the official newsletter of the Sixth Marine Division, and he has done a remarkable job of keeping the membership informed, entertained and enlightened.

After so many years of service, Joe has decided that his time as editor has come to an end, and so the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division is actively seeking a new editor to publish the newsletter. If you are interested in taking over the reins from Joe, please contact Joe Singleton at [joe.semperhorn@gmail.com](mailto:joe.semperhorn@gmail.com) or me. Joe will certainly provide guidance and assistance in helping to make for a smooth transition.

The Striking Sixth is an important facet of the Sixth Marine Division, and over the years it has allowed us to communicate, share stories and memories and connect with one another. I certainly hope that someone steps up to help us continue this great tradition.

Sharing our history has always been an important part of our organization, and over the years I have, as I'm sure many of you have, been frequently contacted by students across the country who seek out the oral histories of World War II veterans. While libraries and classrooms are full of history textbooks, these only convey a small portion of the true story of any historical event.

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**Memorial Gathering** —Marines honored all veterans in East Norristown, PA. From left, Walt Gresavage, Dan MacDougall, Andy Sinatra, Sam Petriello, Hank Henry, Bob McGowan, Dan Cantwell and Lewis McQuirns.

**"Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons."**

**- General MacArthur**

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, 122 Camino Capri, Henderson, NV 89012, phone: (512) 695-4295, email: [joe.semperhorn@gmail.com](mailto:joe.semperhorn@gmail.com)

**Unit Directors**

4th Marines	George Scott
15th Marines	James McWalters
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	Vacant

**Directory Committee**

Joe Singleton, Chairman

**Membership Manager**

Florence Dornan



# Our Marines Report Honor Flights Must For Other Veterans

Honor Flight Network recognizes American veterans for your sacrifices and achievements by flying you to Washington, D.C. to see YOUR memorial at **no cost**. Top priority (for which we are currently accepting applications) is given to World War II and terminally ill veterans from **all** wars.

In the future, **Honor Flight Network** will be expanded to include Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. In order for **Honor Flight Network** to achieve this goal, guardians fly with the veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping veterans have a **safe**, memorable and rewarding experience.

For what you and your comrades have given to us, please consider this a small token of appreciation from all of us at **Honor Flight Network**. Where would this country, or the world for that matter, be without the dedication and services of those young men and women we call American veterans? Throughout



*Bob Purdy is joined by former presidential candidate Bob Dole for this photo op at the Memorial.*

history, our nation has turned to our military to protect others so that we may enjoy the freedoms that we cherish today.

These brave men and women were not making decisions about the right or wrong of war; they were following orders and doing what they were told. We owe so much to these veterans whose sacrifices cannot be captured in a few words, who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country, who carry scars that remain for the rest of their lives.

It is truly Honor Flight Network's privilege to fly our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at the memorials built in their honor. If you know of someone who is a World War II veteran or a veteran with a terminal illness, please fill out an application and send it in.

**Remember, every World War II veteran flies free.** We will **not** accept a donation from a World War II veteran.



*Dick Whitaker after first Honor Flight from Charleston, SC. These two Sixth Division Marines were both enthusiastic over the service and camaraderie of both their flights. They recommend them for those Marines who have not yet taken advantage.*

For further information, please contact us at 937-521-2400 or via email at [veteran-application@honorflight.org](mailto:veteran-application@honorflight.org)

Download the application at <http://www.honorflight.org/apply/Veteran-Application-2009-08-20.pdf>

## The Marine

By J.B. Townsend Jr.

Listen Great White Hunter,  
Top this if you can.  
Of all the prey you'll ever stalk,  
The most dangerous is man.

The hair stands up on back and neck,  
The feet get cold and cramp.  
Your heart is pounding like a drum,  
Will death snuff out your lamp.

Of all the roles that I have played,  
Since early as a teen,  
You just can't beat being young,  
And a United States Marine

# Sixth Marine Division Association 2012 Annual Reunion

## \* \* \* REGISTRATION FORM \* \* \*

Hilton Portland Executive Tower, Portland Oregon

Monday 9/17/12 - Saturday 9/22/12

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

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

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

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

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

Lineal Descendant: \_\_\_\_\_ Of Whom: \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency during the Reunion:

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Registration		Member \$25.00 (Spouses are free)	\$ _____
(supports Hospitality Room)		Guests \$25.00 x _____	\$ _____
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	1000-1900	Registration Desk in the Hospitality Room	
9-17-12	1000-2200	Hospitality Room hours	
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	0730-0930	Continental Breakfast in the Hospitality Room	
9-18-12	0730-2200	Hospitality Room hours	
	1000-1900	Registration Desk in the Hospitality Room	
	1130-1400	Portland Spirit Lunch Cruise \$49.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
	1900-2000	Entertainment by Local Singers group	\$ <u>NoCharge</u>
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	0730-0930	Continental Breakfast in the Hospitality Room	
9-19-12	0730-2200	Hospitality Room hours	
	1000-1900	Registration Desk in the Hospitality Room	
	0900-1100	Portland City Tour \$20.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
	1130-1330	Ladies Luncheon \$25.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
	1130-1330	Officers Board Meeting	
	1330-1700	Oregon Wine Country Tour & Tasting at WillaKenzie Winery \$35.00 x _____ =	\$ _____

## Sixth Marine Division Association 2012 Annual Reunion

<u>Thursday</u>	0730-0930	Continental Breakfast in the Hospitality Room
9-20-12	0730-2200	Hospitality Room hours
	0900-1730	Evergreen Aviation Museum \$49.00 x _____ = \$ _____
		Home of the "Spruce Goose". Lunch included.
	1000-1900	Registration Desk in the Hospitality Room
<u>Friday</u>	0730-0930	Continental Breakfast in the Hospitality Room
9-21-12	0730-2200	Hospitality Room hours
	1000-1130	Memorial Service
	1300-1500	General Meeting
	1800-2300	Banquet – Guest Speaker – Installation of Officers
		Dinner with choice of Entree: \$49.00 x _____ = \$ _____
		- Fish _____
		- Chicken _____
		- Vegetarian _____
		DJ Music of the 40's and 50's
<u>Saturday</u>		
9-22-12	1200	Checkout is at Noon

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

Make check payable to:

6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association, Inc.

Mail this form with your check to:

**Sharon Woodhouse  
Portland 1012 Reunion  
20585 SW Genoa Court  
Aloha OR 97007**

**Contact Information:**

**503-642-2429 (home)**

**503-799-4455 (cell)**

**Email: sjawoodhouse@gmail.com**

**May we suggest that you make a copy of the registration for your records & bring it with you to the Reunion. We are very excited about seeing you in Portland. Oorah!!**

# **Sixth Marine Division Association 2012 Annual Reunion**

## **OPTIONAL EVENT NOTES**

Note that All optional events are handicapped accessible

- **Portland Spirit Lunch Cruise on the Willamette River**

You will be transported from the hotel to the river by bus. The 2 hour cruise includes a lunch entree selected by each guest on board with fresh bread, soft drinks, iced/hot tea coffee while listening to live piano music and taking in the beautiful scenery. Afterward the bus will return you to the hotel.

- **City of Portland Tour**

This will be a narrated 2 hour bus tour of Portland

- **Wine Country Tour**

Experience Oregon's world renowned Pinot Noir wine. You'll board the bus for a scenic drive to the WillaKenzie Winery in Yamhill, Oregon. They have a wonderful tasting room along with several wines to taste.

- **Evergreen Aviation Museum**

With displays ranging from the elegant aeronautic designs of two unknown bike mechanics - Orville and Wilbur Wright - to an actual Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird that can fly at speeds of over 2,000 miles per hour - the Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum located in McMinnville, Oregon, has a little something for everyone. The centerpiece of these aeronautic breakthroughs is the original Hughes Flying Boat HK-1 otherwise know as the Spruce Goose. Built entirely of wood due to wartime restrictions on metals, this massive airplane stands as a symbol of American industry during World War II. You will also see an area of World War II Aircraft including the B-17 Flying Fortress.

**Dues and Newsletter Subscription Now Due**

# Sixth Marine Division Association 2012 Annual Reunion

## **GENERAL NOTES:**

- Valet parking is \$27.00/day with in/out privileges.
- Self-park is \$20.00/day with in/out privileges
- Easy walking distance to shopping and many restaurants.

## **CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOU:**

\_\_\_\_ Attending my 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion \_\_\_\_ Wheelchair Bound (will need a lift) \_\_\_\_ Motorized  
\_\_\_\_ Mobility Impaired (cane/walker) Special Needs (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

## **SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS (specify):**

\_\_\_\_ Will be helping out \_\_\_\_ Will bring Auction Item(s).  
(Donors will be announced – please label)

## **YOUR TRAVEL PLANS FOR OUR RECORDS:**

Will be arriving in Portland, Oregon by \_\_\_\_\_ (mode of transportation?)

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

We hope to have transportation available to pick you up at the airport but those plans are not finalized yet. There is light rail (MAX) from the airport to downtown Portland which brings you within 1.5 blocks of the hotel. Cost \$1.00 senior rate per person. There is also an airport shuttle that will take you to the Hilton for \$14.00 per person. And of course there are plenty of Taxis's available.

**Please keep these cell phone numbers handy if you have any problems or questions when arriving, during or when leaving the reunion:**

**Chairperson: Sharon Woodhouse 503-799-4455**

**Slaves: Gregg Woodhouse 503-449-0290 & Tiffany Woodhouse 503-449-0288**

**If you have a name badge holder from the 2008, 2010, 2011 reunions, please bring it.**

**HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY TO AND FROM THE REUNION.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL  
AND SHOWING OFF OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY OF ROSES!**

# **HOTEL INFORMATION**

## **AND**

# **RESERVATIONS**

**“SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION”**  
**SEPTEMBER 17 - 22, 2012**

***HILTON PORTLAND & EXECUTIVE TOWER***  
**921 SW SIXTH AVENUE**  
**PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-1296**

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

**Single/Double Occupancy:** \$110.00 + \$13.75 (12.5% tax) = \$123.75 per night

*\* These rates are also available three days before and three days after the event!*

**Available Accommodations:** \_\_\_\_\_ King \_\_\_\_\_ Two Beds \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap

Note: The Hilton Hotel is a non-smoking Hotel

**Please DO NOT mail in Hotel reservations. To make reservations:**

**Call:** 503-226-1611 (hotel direct line) **or** 1-800-445-8667 (central reservations)

Be sure to mention 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Association Reunion for the rate. Have your credit card on hand.

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

Note: Parking fees are \$27.00 per day for valet and \$20.00 per day for self-parking. Parking facilities are owned by the City of Portland not the Hilton and the City regulates all costs.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 17, 2012.** After that date, reservations will be taken on availability basis only. Cancellations will be accepted up to 24 hours before arrival date. Your Credit Card **will not** be charged until you check out.

- Hotel Check-In is 3:00 p.m. and Check-Out is Noon
- Early Check-In may be available if the room is ready

Need help making Reservations or have Questions, contact Sharon Woodhouse at 503-642-2429



# Veteran Says Landing on Beachheads Was Battle With the Enemy and Fear

By Brian Albrecht  
Cleveland Plain Dealer

*"There are no ordinary lives," said Ken Burns of those who served in a global cataclysm so momentous that the filmmaker simply entitled his 2007 documentary "The War."*

*Many who served in so many different ways during World War II are gone now.*

*Some took their stories with them. But not this one.*

You're packed tighter than a clip of bullets with other Marines in the landing craft, saltwater and vomit sloshing around your boots, as the boat churns figure-eights in the Pacific, waiting its turn to plow through enemy fire so you can once again test the odds of survival on some bomb-blasted beach.

"You're getting sicker by the minute. For a lot of guys that was worse than getting shot at. You couldn't wait to hit land, even under fire," Alio Benedetti, 89, of Highland Heights, recently recalled.

But landing on a beachhead where the Japanese had figured out how to put a bullet or shell in nearly every square inch of sand was no salvation. "It's always hard. Every one," said Benedetti, who learned that lesson in the invasions of the islands of Eniwetok, Kwajalein and Guam during World War II. "Some are worse than others, of course."

And no matter how many beaches you face, or buddies you lose, "you never get used to it."

That realization wouldn't come until two years after the Cleveland Heights High School graduate enlisted in 1942, choosing the Marines mainly because he really liked how actor John Payne looked in

a Marine formal dress-blue uniform in a movie.

"That's for me," Benedetti recalled saying, and got the gung-ho spirit. "We were young. I was 20. The war was on and we wanted to do our duty after Pearl Harbor." The grim reality of war would replace the allure of a dress-blue uniform. He remembered the sound of a passing bullet, affirming -- in a macabre way -- that you're still alive. "All you hear is the zip of them going by," Benedetti said, "If you hear that, you're OK."

Each island seemed to hold what Benedetti called, "the usual thing. Snipers getting up in the palm trees or in a hole in the ground covered with palm leaves. They were fanatics."

Death could be as random and instantaneous as the buddy sitting next to him, who peered over a coconut log and got a bullet in the forehead. The fear never quits. "You're scared. Everybody's scared," said the Marine who served with an 81mm mortar detachment and also in a radio communications/ message center. "Every battle you're in, you think that's it. I mean, how many times can you get lucky?"

Benedetti said he wasn't a particularly religious person before the war. But he started carrying a rosary in combat. And prayed. A lot. No atheists in foxholes, as the saying went. "You change, whether you know it or not," he said. "You're not young anymore."

When his unit, the 22nd Marine Regiment of the First Provisional Marine Brigade, went to Guadalcanal in 1944 to merge with other units



Alio Benedetti

to form the Sixth Marine Division, Benedetti came down with dengue fever and was transferred back to the U.S., missing the final battle of the war on Okinawa.

Nightmares followed Benedetti home. "The best thing was getting married. Take your mind off everything," he said, nodding to his wife of 61 years, Angela, who was a red Cross volunteer during the war. While he worked as a South Euclid firefighter, they raised a son, and three daughters who organized the first national reunion of Sixth Division veterans in Cleveland last year at the Hyatt Regency Cleveland hotel in The Arcade.

Benedetti is looking forward to seeing some bygone buddies again this year, but they won't be swapping combat tales. "We don't talk too much about the war anymore," he said. "That's old stuff."

Some of the funny war stories may come to mind, though. Like the time on Guam when the Marines had gone a long time without meat and were tempted to shoot a stray chicken. But they held off, fearing their gunfire would betray their position to the enemy and settled for C rations instead -- "dog food in a can," as Benedetti described it.

Despite the hardships and horrors, he's proud he served. "I'm glad I was there," Benedetti said. "Maybe I wouldn't want to do it again, but it was an experience not many people go through."

# Connie Takes Over As New President At 2012 Reunion

*continued from page 1*

We welcome Connie Houseweart, daughter of Corporal Rolland A. Haynes, HQ- 3-22.

Connie is coming along at just the right time. The board of directors already has three other Lineal Descendants doing association work. Lisa Benedetti, secretary was the first. She has since been joined by Bob McGowan, judge advocate, and Jim Rigby, treasurer. Connie also is serving on the present board as president elect.

There are, no doubt, other changes pending. Those of us who are still here need to attend the reunion Sept. 17-22, if at all possible. Let's keep things running smoothly. We are lucky enough to have kids interested enough to do work that we 80 and 90 year-olds can no longer do or that we just don't have enough zip left to want to do.

Decisions have to be made. The newsletter is an example. (See story inside.) The present editor has been using his own judgment for policies and procedures that need reviewing as he slips the moorings for other scenes.

There is change in the wind for reunions, which some believe is the only reason for continuing the association. As long we want to meet, there must be some management, and someone has to do it. The people

who run this association are the members who attend. No one else has a vote. Proxies are not accepted.

Naturally, as time passes, there



*Connie Houseweart*

are going to be fewer attendees, less money coming in and less reason for continuing the association. The attending members will decide where and when we will meet next, who will be the next president elect and decide on other officers. There will be New Business and Old Business. Those who do not attend will have no decision to make.

There are 12 elected officers and an appointed membership manager, Flo Dornan. She does far more work than anyone. Without that work, which is mostly keeping track of the members and dealing with most of the money coming in, the association

cannot exist. It might pay us to let her do everything and dump the rest of us. Jim White is the membership chairman. The chaplain, Harry McKnight; the PR Chairman, Bill Pierce, and the editor, Joe Singleton, work throughout the year. So does the treasurer, Jim Rigby, whose duties consist of writing checks for he and the president to sign.

The secretary, Lisa Benedetti, takes the minutes at both the Board and Membership meeting and transcribes them for the winter newsletter. The judge advocate, Bob McGowan, prepares or has prepared bylaw amendments. He also offers opinions if asked. The service officer used to be busy, but there doesn't seem to be much to do these days. Dick Roberts fills that slot.

The president, Sam Petriello, holds meetings at the reunion, steps in if needed and listens to complaints. The past president, Ed Marsalek, still listens to complaints. Past President Emeritus Andy Sinatra, still a big well preserved specimen, offers his services when a sergeant at arms is needed. These elected officers constitute the executive committee.

The unit reps fill out the full board when you can find them. These members are not elected, they are dragooned.

— Editor

## **There's Knowing, There's Going, And Then There Is Fun**

*continued from page 1*

For those that like to camp, there are many forest campgrounds in the Mt Hood National Forest area and at the Oregon coast. There are many great locations to camp at the coast for those that like the beaches. Seaside, Tillamook and Lincoln City are all about 1-1/2 hours west of Portland. Seaside and Lincoln City have several nice places to stay with

ocean view or beachfront access.

Tillamook is home to the Tillamook Cheese Factory where you can watch cheese being made and taste it too! They also have great ice cream cones and an extensive gift shop! Remember Oregon has NO SALES TAX!

There is also the scenic Columbia Gorge area east of Portland. There are unbelievable views of the river and our famous Multnomah Falls. Our family's favorite pastime is

going to the beach or wine tasting. Portland is also home to many micro-breweries. I think we've tasted just about them all and haven't found a bad one yet!

We have two Indian casinos east of Portland. Chinook Winds is located in Lincoln City right on the beach. Spirit Mountain is closer to Portland, and they have a bus that takes people to/from the casino each day for no charge. Both casinos have fantastic buffets. You never walk away hungry!

Striking Sixth



## Chaplain's Report

*Harry McKnight*

Some days the Dragon wins. Just as I was thinking all my letters to wives or husbands of Marines were finished, I get a letter back from Mrs. George Hodges with "Return to sender, no forwarding address" stamped by the post office. If anyone knows where she moved to, let me know so I can send her my condolences from all of you.

Nice to see Bob McGowan has met the new Commandant. My son Tom invited me, Barb and my Iwo Jima veteran Brother Bill to the Marine Ball in San Diego. We met the General at the cocktail party just before the Ball. He said he hoped to look as good as we did when he was our age. Well so much for looking good.

I had my right hip replaced in early February and I am just now able to get around without much pain. Have to have my brother put the golf ball on the "T" for me. Nice to be able to play golf, or what some call golf.

Well, I see our numbers are getting fewer by the looks of the list for the memorial in Portland. I have been getting a few hints from those who live near the East Coast. Most of us are living on our retired incomes and some are stretching their budgets just to survive.

It would be nice if we had a more central spot for our reunion. Don Mahoney, my buddy lives in Maine, several live in Florida or the Carolinas, Georgia etc. and said they will not be able to attend. May we all look to our Savior for guidance and consider all our surviving members that they might be able to attend?

Looking forward to seeing you again in Portland. The last time there we took the bus trip to Mount Hood. It was beautiful. Thinking about beautiful, we saw Peekaboo Street making a cosmetic video on her skis.

So, may we all have a safe trip there and have a good time and thank the good Lord for our blessings.

— Your Chaplain, Harry McKnight

## Where and When Should We Hold The Next Sixth Division Reunion?

I have just finished writing my notes for the next issue of the "Striking Sixth" and am thinking about the Portland Reunion.. This got me to wondering about future reunions.

Reunion locations have always been decided by those voting at the previous reunion. Thus if you were not at the last reunion you had no say in the location of the next reunion. For those of you who have been unable to attend recent reunions we would like to consider your input too. (Anything to get you and your descendants to attend).

Please discuss the location and time and length of "Your Ideal Reunion" with your family and call, write or email one or more of the officers listed in this newsletter and share your thoughts and preferences for their consideration. This is your reunion and your preferences should be considered.

If you who are reading this have suggestions as to where you think you and your descendants would be most likely be able to attend a reunion and what months you would prefer, tell the president.

I have been told that most of the



*Barbara McKnight*

Marines live east of the Mississippi and also that extra money for trips is tight with the Marines on limited retirement incomes. Also, since age is a factor, soon most of us will need the descendants to bring us or accompany us to the reunions. We should consider what would be convenient for them.

Some suggestions have been: 1) Same place each year. 2) Same date each year. Also we need to be sure the reunions are 3) not held on religious holidays (Rosh Hashanah). Other thoughts are that it needs to be someplace that has 4) Good airline connections and 5) Cheaper airline fares. 6) Consider that some people cannot or do not fly, so have it a decent drive for a large portion of members.

Some have suggested they can get things done in fewer days so 7) have a three day reunion, and have the hotel give us special rates for those who want to come a few days early and or stay a few days after so they can spend more time in the area or with their friends.

The above thoughts and questions have been gathered from the few that I have talked with. Thanks for reading this. The officers really do want to hear from you and do what is best for the Association. Again, please discuss this with your family and share your concerns and suggestions with the officers.

Sincerely, Barbara McKnight (wife of Harry McKnight H - 3 - 29)



# Memorial Planned For Corpsmen In National Cemetery

By Charles Broward

Since the Marine and Navy Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen Memorial was placed at the entrance of Evergreen Cemetery in 2004, more and more have shown up each Nov. 10 to honor the soldiers they loved who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Jacksonville, FL Semper Fidelis Society, the group responsible for the monument, is now working on a similar tribute at a most logical location: Jacksonville National Cemetery. It's to show they're not forgotten, said Robert Adelhelm, the society's founder and past president. "This is Americanism," he said.

Adelhelm, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel, said the organization expects to have the 3-by-3-foot black memorial stone designed in uniform with the rest of the cemetery's markers installed by Nov. 10, the Marine Corps "birthday."

The group chose the more expensive black granite, also used in the Evergreen monument, over the commonly used gray granite to make it unique because, as Adelhelm said, "Marines are unique."

The memorial widens as it rises with a stainless steel plate down its sides for support. Engraved on its top will be the old Marine Corps emblem, matched on its face in bronze by the new eagle, globe and anchor emblem.

A short expression will be included honoring the lost Marines and Navy corpsmen, medical specialists who serve side-by-side with Marines in combat, often treating them on the field of battle.

The project comes with a price tag of nearly \$20,000, of which the group



**Another Flag on June 21, 1945** — *This celebration by Marines was most likely somewhere behind that of the 22nd Regiment, whose flag raising would have taken place at sea if they hadn't stopped at waters' edge in Southern Okinawa.*

has already raised \$14,000, mostly from donations by people who've served in the Marines.

The group is asking for more donations to meet its goal of \$30,000. The extra funds will go toward yearly maintenance costs on the Evergreen monument as well as the Herbert R. Pearce Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship awards \$500 each year to one cadet in Bishop Kenny High School's NJROTC unit.







*(From left) Larry Paleno, retired Maj. Kerry Quinn, Gerald Quinn and Audrey Ponzio stand with the dog tags and memorabilia of Pfc. John B. Quinn at the National World War II Memorial in Washington May 19. Quinn kept the dog tags, found near a cave in Okinawa, for 18 years before reuniting them with John's family last year. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Chelsea Flowers)*

## No Body Yet, But Dog Tag Is Found

In the summer of 1945, a young man with 6th Marine Division by the name of Pfc. John B. Quinn Jr., arrived on Okinawa, Japan to assist in the invasion during World War II. He was shot and killed 13 days later while rescuing a fellow Marine from a cave, but his body was never recovered.

It was rumored his remains were sealed inside the cave because it was blown up to eliminate Japanese forces inside. Sixty-six years later, one of John's dog tags made it back into the hands of his family thanks to a little luck and the help of a fellow Marine.

In the summer of 1993, then 2nd Lt. Kerry J. Quinn was stationed on Okinawa aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. The sergeant major of his unit returned from exploring the island with something he thought might be of interest to Quinn.

It was a dog tag, bearing the name of Pfc. John B. Quinn Jr., found outside

an old World War II cave. Thinking it might be a relative he didn't know about, Quinn held onto the dog tag.

"I guess I kept thinking maybe I had some uncle or relative I didn't know was a Marine from years ago," said Quinn, a retired major who now works with USMC Operations at Homeland Security Solutions, Inc. "Somewhere in the back of my mind, I thought I could find who it belonged to."

This mystery wouldn't be resolved until 18 years later when Quinn's interest in the dog tag was reawakened. After two days of googling information about the name on the dog tag, Quinn stumbled upon the 6th MarDiv webpage.

"I kept digging around," Quinn said. "It was when I found the Marine Division website the second day that I got my first lead." Quinn found a post on the page by John's nephew, Larry Paleno, seeking information about his uncle. One evening, shortly after Hurricane Irene hit, Quinn called Paleno and told him he had his uncle's dog tag.

## President's Message

*continued from page 2*

The insights and perspectives of those who were there make up the important architecture of this great country, and so I urge anyone who is called to share their firsthand accounts of their time spent with the Sixth Marine Division, so that students can gain knowledge and insight from these valuable interviews. I have received letters of gratitude from students who have truly come to understand history through this process.

Preserving our stories through interviews and oral history is a critical phase of historical research and data preservation, and it will continue to keep the tradition and history of the Sixth Marine Division alive.

Our scholarship program is still active, and I would like to let everyone know that Bob McGowan has been appointed as our new Scholarship Chairman. I am confident that Bob will do a stellar job in this important endeavor.

Finally, Sharon Woodhouse has been working extremely hard to make sure that we have a successful reunion this September 17 through the 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Hilton Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Sharon has planned a number of optional events this year including a Portland Spirit Lunch Cruise on the Willamette River, a City of Portland Tour, a Wine Country Tour and a visit to the Evergreen Aviation Museum.

This is a wonderful time for us to get together and meet and reconnect with each other and the friends and families of the Sixth Marine Division. Please try to get your reservations and plans in order to help facilitate the process. I look forward to seeing you all there!

## You Must Go to the Reunion If You Wish to Vote on the Next Location

Since it's getting late in the game, decisions made at the forthcoming reunion may affect us all. The big one will be where do we go next or do we go at all. As we all know formal decisions are made at the reunions. If you don't go, you don't get to vote.

There are ways to influence events by contacting the president, other officers or letting your views be known via the newsletter. We don't print personal attacks or make political points, but we do seek ideas. First among them these days is when do we call it a day. Your editor believes that should come when we decide we've had enough. We don't want to have to quit because we've run out of money.

Income in the past has come via reunion profits, donations, membership dues, newsletter subscriptions and miscellaneous. Results from these sources are dwindling. Expenses remain high. As attendance falters at reunions because of death and age, profits have become a thing of the past. Losses are to be expected now, but the biggest danger at this time comes from the newsletter. The Striking Sixth costs at present are running at \$9000 a year. We took in about \$4500 in subscriptions and specified donations in 2011. Last year that left almost half of the amount needed to be subsidized from other sources.

If these losses were all that have to be considered, we're good for another 10 years. That's plenty of time, but we do have other expenses that should continue to grow. A worst-case scenario could begin to give us problems in three to five years at present outlays. That may be more time than we actually need, but we should begin thinking about this subject now.

We mailed more than 2500 copies of the newsletter this spring. That included everyone in the association. Paid up members probably didn't number 200. I did this to support the reunion, which was in accordance with the bylaws. We always send out more copies than have been paid for, but usually that only amounts to one or

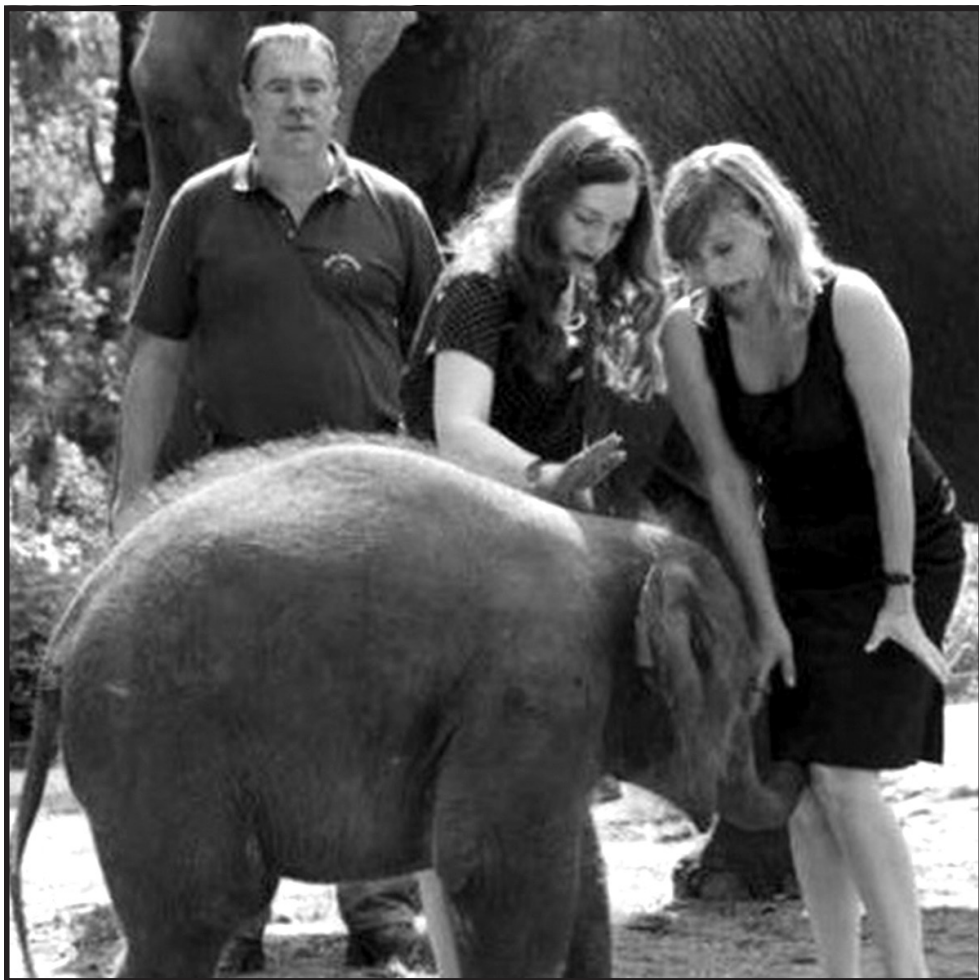
two hundred extra. It is known by every business in the country that you must send out bills if you expect recurring payments. We don't do that.

There are ways to save money on the newsletter. I am thinking about all of them: eliminating color, cutting back on pages printed, no more slick pages for the outside, cutting out the Summer Edition, sending out only to the paid up (no grace period). What about sending out bills? It's cheaper for the Post Office to return a letter than a newsletter. By sending a bill to all members, you might pick up some unpaid dues as well as subscriptions. We could try it once, measure the results and decide if it's worth it. Our membership rolls always need pruning. We could also mention the reunion an extra time.

Finally, if we're down to a hundred

or so readers, will it make sense to spend \$3000 to reach them? If that's the case, we could follow Glen Moore's "Marine Family Newsletter" process and offer individual sheets stapled at the upper left hand corner. With a thousand invested we could print it ourselves for under a thousand and keep after it until World War II isn't even a memory any more.

Another cheap way of reaching our members is posting the Striking Sixth on the web site, which we are already doing. That doesn't cost us a dime. It should, though. The Youngs do it for free out of love for the Corps. They deserve something for their pains, especially in these times. I would suggest a thousand dollars every year just to show our regard. Bill Pierce, who is our in house connection to the site supports this idea. — Editor



**Reunion Hazard**— *There are enough difficulties making reunions without having to deal with randy elephants. Those in charge should make every effort to prevent this sort of lewd pachyderm behavior. Photo by Chris Smith at South Carolina Reunion.*

## Mail Call

Dear Mrs. Dornan, I enclose my check of \$50.00 to cover three years subscription of the newsletter and \$20.00 donation towards the newsletter expense. Though my husband passed away seven years ago, I still enjoy the newsletter and can reminisce of the happy years we had at the reunions. Most sincerely, Nancy Camise, 5 Martin Dr, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

★

To: Florence R. Dornan  
From: Richard (Doug) Brown  
The Spring 2012 newsletter is a great piece of work, however, I notice two things that stick out like a sore thumb. 1) The first thing is the expression "Oorah!" on one of the pages, re: Annual Reunion. I hear it of the modern day Marines and I have heard how it originated. "Semper Fidelis" or "Semper Fi" was the motto of the USMC from when I enlisted in 22 Jan 1942. I got out in Jan '46 and joined the Reserve in June 1947. That Oorah! Sounds like a big ole hog I had as a boy. When I hear that rather than a "Semper Fi," I return the compliment with Semper Fi and our Marines do not grunt like a hog and tell them if they can't say Semper Fi, don't say anything. It makes me think they sound like Army soldiers, not JARHEADS. 2) Please inform Jack Rice that there is only a "Medal of Honor," not Congressional Medal of Honor. I served under two "MOH" recipients, Lou Wilson from Mississippi, my home state, and David Shoup (illegible) from Indiana who at the time was CO of Marine Corps Basic at Quantico in 1951-52. God bless the Corps, the USA and USMC.... Pardon my penmanship! It's hell to get old. Major Doug Brown, USMC

Retired, 401 W Lakeshore Dr, Starke, FL 32094 904-964-7780

**Ed's Note: Bless you, too, Major. We're all old but still giving it our best. On Oorah, I'm with you, only I would add that stupid modern haircut. What was wrong with the "burr?"**

★

I moved 2 1/2 years ago and I was so happy to get the *Striking Sixth*... Enclosed is my check for \$20. My husband, Herb, passed away in 1990 and I so enjoyed the few reunions I attended after his death.

Rose Marie Wittmer, 2401 11<sup>th</sup> St Apt 315, Moorhead, MN 56560-4414

★

Dear Ms Dornan: It is with great sadness I must inform you of the passing of Sam A. DiDesiderio. Sam, my father, passed away on 1/16/2012. Unfortunately, Anna Mae DiDesiderio, Sam's wife, passed away 3 months later on 4/12/2012. My sister, brother and I are in shock. They were a great couple and loving parents.

Sam was proud to be a Marine. We grew up with stories about flame throwers, tanks and grenades. Sam also taught us patriotism, honor and integrity. My Mom and Dad always looked forward to their Marine reunions. I joined them on several occasions: South Dakota and Las Vegas. I met some wonderful Marines and their families. I know it's expensive to produce your publication so please remove Sam's name from your mailing list. I have attached a copy of your mailing label to assist you. Also, please include

Sam and Anna Mae in your TAPS article. Sam was in the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Div. and was a heavy machine gun crewman. He served in the South Pacific from July 19, 1942 to Nov. 21, 1944 Carol A. Stubbs (their daughter), 1109 Cambridge Lane, Shorewood, IL 60404.

SEMPER FI! P.S. If possible please send me a copy of the *Striking Sixth* showing Sam and Anna Mae in your TAPS article. Thank you. I will save that with his other Marine mementos.

★

Hi Joe, my wife and I drove down to Tavares, Florida. I presented the portrait of Robert McTurreous to Lavonda, (Curator) at the Lake County Historical Society Museum. They were extremely happy to receive it. It will be on the wall at the display as soon as it's framed. It is a great little museum!

We left there and drove to Quantico, where we visited the Marine Corps Museum, it was spectacular! But I am glad we chose the Lake County Museum as home for the portrait. The Quantico location is too large, expansive, and the portrait would likely get very little exposure there. And it is at least three years before it can be seen at all.

So I feel the choice was the right one. I have heard of a possible second near identical portrait located at the McTureous homesite in Altoona. I did stop by that homesite and it was in disrepair. It looked like it hadn't been entered in a long time, very disheartening. There was no one there and no apparent visiting hours.



## Mail Call

I am researching it further and will inquire as to what needs to be done to bring the McTureous homesite/memorial back to respectable status. I'll let you know how I make out. Semper Fi, J. J. McGrath



Dear Joe: On December 6th 2011, I returned to Maui Hawaii 68 years to the day after the 22nd Marines held landing maneuvers on the North Coast, in preparation for the invasion of Eniwetok (Marshall Islands). My wife and I traveled to Haiku/Kokomo road looking for the 22nd Marines encampment area. To my surprise, the local people at the town of Haiku directed us to the area where the 22nd Marines were encamped for two months, only to find a 4th Marine Division Memorial Park, used as their home from 1945 to 1946. A native Hawaiian we met at the park informed us that there was a Maui Veterans Cemetery in the small city of Makawoa. In an enclosed area at the cemetery we found a bronze plaque (photo enclosed) honoring those killed and wounded during the maneuvers. After the maneuvers we disembarked at the docks in Kahului loaded on to a narrow gauge railroad (used for carrying sugar cane and pineapples) and rode it to a point near Haiku/Kokomo road and trucked to our encampment area. I was surprised not to find any recognition that the 22nd Marines had trained at the area The 4th Marine Division called home. Sincerely, William R. Cloud, Regimental H&S Company, 22nd Marines.

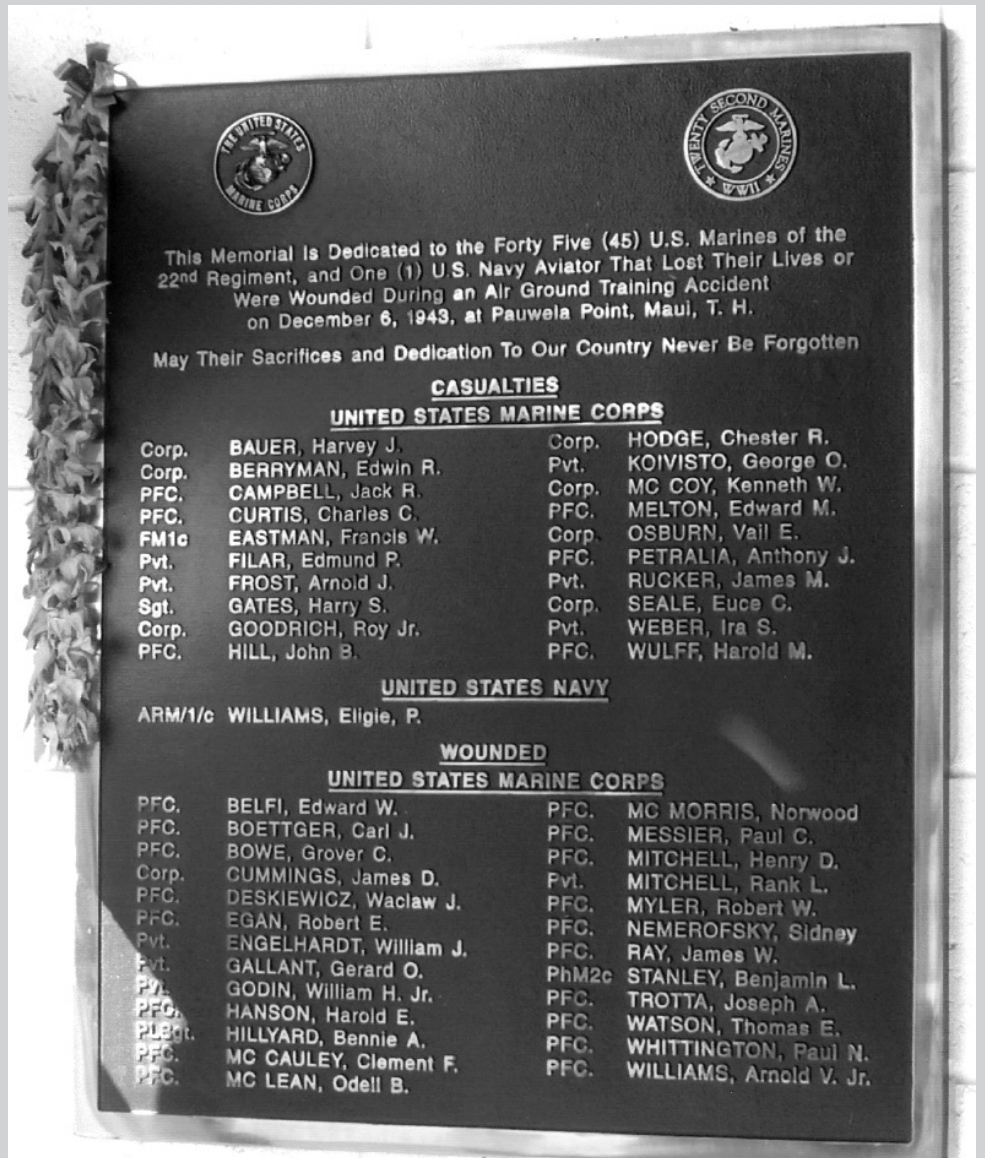


Dear Florence, Please accept the \$20 due for your wonderful newsletter. I have attended two of the reunions in the past, and know that my Father, "Bryce Hill, Jr." would have loved to attend the upcoming event in Portland. However, he will not be able to now as his sight is failing, and being the great artist that he is, it is very frustrating to him. He loves his newsletter, and I really enjoy it.

Thank you for all you do, Darcy Hill Priest, 2029 Gemini Dr, Bastrop, LA 71220



Captain Fargo Balliett died March 4 and had a service May 12. I will forward Obit. There were mistakes in division. He was 6th, it says 9th. Plus he was aide to General Clement, WWII and Aid to General Ridely



*This plaque provides the only recognition that the 22nd Marine Regiment was ever in Maui, according to William Holland's experience tracking down the past. The plaque doesn't tell us much about the training accident, which must have been one of the worst of the war. The plaque doesn't offer much help beyond "air ground." If some Marine, who was there, will write about it, we will print his account.*



## Mail Call

Cingregono in Korean War. There was a burial in the Fargo Plot in Buffalo NY in June. Are there any pictures or information you can supply? Thanks, William Balliett, [williamfargo@yahoo.com](mailto:williamfargo@yahoo.com).



Dear Florence: Enclosed is a check for five years of the newsletter. On another note: A couple of years ago I found another newsletter inside when I opened mine. It was addressed to Girard Milillo from Columbus, NJ, which is only five or six miles from the Masonic Home where I live. I found Gerry's phone number with my computer and phoned him. It turned out that we were both Corpsmen with the Sixth. He was with F-2-4, I was with E-2-29. I was wounded on April 13, was hospitalized in the States for about a year before discharge. He went the full time on Okinawa, then to Japan and finally home. We've become very good friends and have talked many times. I had met a couple of friends who were Civil War Reenactors and who have become interested in the WWII era. This was before I met Gerry. They joined Gerry and I here to tell us that the Ninth Infantry Division WWII Historical Society wanted us to attend their membership meeting. We did, and it went well. We felt honored and appreciated. I know this little note has turned into quite a letter, but I wanted to share my excitement with you about how this new generation has received us into their lives and how much it is meaning to me as I am approaching the final days of my life. James W. Hall, 902 Jacksonville Rd., # 126, Burlington, NJ 08016



*Frank McBride and Friend*

My Dad, Frank McBride, landed in the second wave on that Easter Sunday. After the Okinawa Campaign concluded, he then went to Tsingtao as part of the occupation forces there. He passed away in 1985, and my Mother passed away this past August. I would be pleased if any Sixth Marine Division Marine who knew my Father would contact me. Many Thanks and Semper Fidelis, LtCol Frank McBride, USMC (Ret) **Ed's Note: No address, but an answer is possible on our Facebook page.**



*In Memory to my Father, Cpl. James Criscitello, 6th Marine Division, 15th Artillery Regiment.  
—— Connie Criscitello*



## It Was Andy Young's Idea, But It Was to the Association's Gain

Hi Joe, So sorry for the delay on this, had to help Andy fill in some gaps. It WAS all his idea, BTW. Both the site for the 6th Marine Division (which went online on 11/4/99) as well as the Raiders' official site (online since 1/4/00). I had just started doing websites (had only 1 or 2 under my belt, but I took to web design well).

It was Andy's original idea that I should email Jack Dornan about doing a site for the Association. In the spirit of Proverbs 27:10 "Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend," we did it as we knew dad's Marine buddies really needed their own site! Of course I LOVED the idea, since it would bring us both closer in a way to Andy's father (James L. Young, Jr.) Jack knew where he served, I'm not sure.

The idea came to Andy around September of '99 as I recall, Dad had already been gone to be with the Lord for about a year and a half by then, so all contact was between us and Jack Dornan. About two years later Jack and Flo visited our area and we had the great pleasure of meeting them.

We REALLY wish to be able to attend the reunions, it would be such a thrill!!!!!! However, both for financial (and for Andy also, work reasons) it just hasn't been possible.

Our company ([www.texasnova.com](http://www.texasnova.com)) IS totally a Young company. I do all the web and hosting work and Andy does all the purchasing and supporting. We do live in Houston, actually it's Magnolia now, just north of Houston.

I don't expect you remember our details, it's OK to ask. I'm originally

## Mail Call

from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. But since about the age of five all I wanted was to go to America and learn English. Sounds like a corny movie line, doesn't it? But it's true! My mother worked for the foreign service in Brazil (my father had died before I turned 2), so we moved in chronological order to Canada, Panama, back to Rio, and then, finally, Houston! Here I met my soulmate Andy!!! We lived in the same apartment complex and met at the pool. The rest as they say is history!

I became a proud American citizen on 6/19/99. It was a happy day, saddened only by Dad's absence. It would have been MOST special if he had been there to share it with us.

I guess the only other thing is that I also make, maintain and host free web sites for animal rescues. We love the rescues and have also been dog foster parents in the past. It's hard to let them go, so we now support them in this way. We've had two other Marine websites, which eventually were taken over by one of their own. We have made it clear that if/when they need help we will be glad to give it - and have done so. The 6th Marine Division's site will always be the most special to us! It's our first baby, so-to-speak! Best Regards and Semper Fi. Andrew and Luciana Young

**Ed's Note: James Young Jr. was a Raider first, then a member of the Fourth Marines for Guam and Okinawa. Bill Pierce replaced Jack Dornan as Luciana's contact within the association. The following E-Mail was received after Bill had arranged a \$1000 gift from the association for the Youngs. The editor tried to do this again in a later year (Bill was**

**absent from the reunion.), but it did not happen.**



*James Young*



LUCY@TEXASNOVA.COM

To: GYRENE629@aol.com

Sent: 11/5/2009

Bill, It was a pleasure speaking with you today. Andy and I thank you and the Sixth Marine Division Association from the bottom of our hearts for the gracious gift given for our work with the site. It truly is appreciated and though we won't use it for a cruise, as you had recommended :o) the money is much needed and appreciated at this time as Andy's been laid off. Truly the Lord has blessed us through you! Many, MANY heartfelt thanks, God bless! Andrew and Lucy Young



*Andy and Luciana*

## ***Battalion Gets Remembered.***

This story has been knocking around for years, but it does involve a Marine of the "Lost Battalion." That battalion, of course, being the first of the 29th Marines. It was lost in mind if not in actuality. Even the people on Saipan don't remember who it was that took Mount Tapotchau. The fight for Saipan is seldom mentioned even in this Division.

This is also about Amelia Earhart.

It goes like this: Amelia and her navigator turned up missing on an around the world flight back when that was a dangerous thing to do. They went down somewhere in the Central Pacific. What happened? We don't know.

Enter our Marines of the 1st Battalion as they blew up another town, this one on Saipan, as Marines are want to do if you irritate them by attacking the U.S. Bob Wallack, Charlie Company runner, gained access to a blown up safe that he said contained a briefcase full of Amelia Earhart material.

Of course, he turned it over to someone, and it hasn't been seen since. Expeditions have been mounted, ships have sailed and airplanes flown, but, still, no one knows what happened to Amelia Earhart. For many the Japanese are figured guilty some how, some way, for some reason.

They never find out what really happened to the famed woman aviator, but at least the "Lost Battalion" will not be lost to everyone forever. It will be back in the news if that briefcase ever turns up.





*Standing Guard for Cody*

## Marines Show Respect And Regard for Cody

Every now and then, in the middle of the constant barrage of sound and type that's just teeing us all off these days, we come across a story, a feat, an event that just makes us stop in our tracks. This was one for me.

Cody Green was a 12-year kid in Indiana who was diagnosed with leukemia at 22 months old. He loved the Marines, and his parents said he drew strength and courage from the Marine Corps. as he bravely fought Summer 2012

the battle into remission three times. Although he was cancer-free at the time, the chemotherapy had lowered his immune system and he developed a fungus infection that attacked his brain.

As he struggled to fend off that infection in the hospital, the Marines wanted to show how much they respected his will to live, his strength, honor and courage. They presented Cody with Marine navigator wings and named him an honorary member of the United States Marine Corps.

For one Marine, though, that wasn't enough, so that night,



**Learning a New Trade** — *Once the Marine Corps had a battalion or two of Paramarines. They won their spurs on Gavuto and Edson's Ridge on the 'Canal. They recorded one of the fastest retreats on record at Bouganville, when a company chose to land on a beach already occupied by a Japanese regiment. With nary a combat jump to their name, they were disbanded, and most ended up with the 28th Marines on Iwo. Here an early parachutist is shown at Parris Island, where they were trained for a while.*

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE  
TO THE FLAG, OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA, AND TO  
THE REPUBLIC, FOR  
WHICH IT STANDS,  
ONE NATION UNDER  
GOD, INDIVISIBLE,  
WITH LIBERTY AND  
JUSTICE FOR ALL!**

before Cody Green passed away, he took it upon himself to stand guard at Cody's hospital door all night long, 8 hours straight.

Nowhere on the face of this planet is there a country so blessed as we to have men and women such as this. I wish I could personally tell this Marine how proud he makes me to be an American. God, I do love this country.

~~Lori Boxer for The Blackosphere

## Help Wreath Providers

Last year the **SGT. MAC FOUNDATION** and the **NATIONAL WREATH PROJECT** placed 5,500 wreaths on graves at Quantico and Gettysburg National Cemeteries. This year we would like to expand this program. We are committed to placing as many Wreaths as possible at Quantico National Cemetery, where Sergeant Eric McColley is interred.

We have also again committed to placing wreaths on every headstone in the Gettysburg National Cemetery (also known as Soldiers National Cemetery). To accomplish this project, we need to raise approximately \$ 48,000.00.

We will sincerely appreciate any assistance that you can provide in funding this endeavor. The wreaths and bows cost \$ 8.00 each and are provided at cost by **GIANT FOOD** of Carlisle, PA. Transportation of the wreaths from Gettysburg to Quantico, VA is provided generously by **ABF FREIGHT SYSTEMS**. Everything else is provided by volunteers. **100%** of every dollar donated will go to the purchase of wreaths.

You are invited to visit the Sgt. Mac Foundation website at **WWW.SGTMAC.ORG** for details and photos of how **THE NATIONAL WREATH PROJECT** began as well as photos of last year's program.



**After a Day's Hard Fighting — There's nothing so good as hot sake.**



## OKLAHOMA LOVES MARINES!!!!!!!!!!

Pam Bloustine, another WWII Woman Marine and Joan Willauer attended the Oklahoma Marine Corps Coordinating Council Birthday Luncheon in November, 2011. The speaker was General Joseph Dunford Jr, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. He was very interesting and a wonderful speaker. It was a very enjoyable event as usual. A lot of active duty Marines were there and, of course, a lot of old codgers too!

—— Joan Willauer

**Ed's Note: Joan and Pam are both very active in the Oklahoma Marine Women's organization. Joan, a long time member of the Ladies Auxiliary, and Pam, who with Joan, are two parts of the Oklahoma Trio, which have won everlasting fame for their ability as reunion organizers and for being splendid examples of women Marines. As a result, they have been made Honorary Members of the association. This article was supposed to run in the spring but got lost somehow.**

## That's Our Bunch —

*Taking Ten on the way to Okinawa. This is the Pleasure Palace of Mog Mog, the Marine Corps' idea of a hot time. Well, hot beer anyhow. If you went ashore and were lucky that's what you got.*

### Actor Ben Stein Loves Marines

So, as I walked through the River and ran into Marines from 29 Palms, I made a point of talking to them for a long, long time. I LOVE THESE GUYS. I mean, I really love them.

They are so brave, so enthusiastic, so strong, that it's almost beyond my calculations. I just love them. They are also extremely modest and never brag. They're just the greatest.

The two bravest men I know, John W. Keker and Lawrence Hyde Lissitzyn, are both Marines who saw horrible combat in Vietnam. The smartest man I know (except for Aram and Wlady and Bob) is John R. Coyne, Jr., also a Marine. These are amazing human beings.

Many years ago, David Eisenhower, one of the smartest guys on the planet, told me that he thought that part of Ike's success was that he was never afraid to fight with his hands. This tells us a lot about the Marines, who actually like to fight. They would rather fight than not fight. Again, they are amazing. Thank God, they are on our side.

——Excerpt from **American Spectator**



# Ladies Auxiliary

Are you and your children and grandchildren registered to vote? If you have moved at all, in most states you need to register again. Our fall election is very important, not only on the national level but locally as well. You Marines sacrificed for this privilege so be sure your descendants use it wisely

I have just sent Flo Dornan the application and funds for the "Life Membership" to the Sixth Division Association for both of our sons. I have also included the payment of their first year subscription to the "Striking Sixth." I know they are both busy with their careers and families, but I want them to be sure they know what is going on in the Sixth Division Association even if they are not able to come to the reunions. Hopefully this will also encourage them to try to arrange their busy schedules so they can join us for part of the reunions if the reunions are easily accessible to them.

Since we will be flying to the reunion, and I only go "carry on," I am still trying to figure out my addition to the "craft tables" and what to bring. It needs to fit in my carry on. How are you coming on your donation to the "craft table?"

See you in Portland,

—Barb McKnight



Summer 2012

## MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

When it was time to work up the mailing list for the Spring edition of the *Striking Sixth*, Joe Singleton, our editor, requested that I send the newsletter to all members for which we have an address. We now know that we don't have a good address for many of our members. I am asking that each of you think if you have heard of a member who has died or moved in with a relative or into an assisted living or nursing home and let me know about this member. That would be a great help in allowing me to update our records, as well as saving the Association mailing and return mail charges. It is my hope that I will be able to publish a list of names that we no longer know their addresses in the next newsletter to help you remember the status of your friend or a member.

The membership owes the Sixth Marine Division Association Ladies Auxiliary a very big "Thank you" for their donation of \$500 to the Newsletter Fund. That will go a long way to help us continue to be able to publish our newsletter, so many members will continue to enjoy

learning about their old friends and reunions they are no longer able to attend.

I am also hearing that some members don't know if they owe dues or newsletter subscription fees. Please take a moment and look at the very back page of your *Striking Sixth* and notice the third line below "Change Service Requested" which is the line immediately above your name. The first number is your identification number, the second is your membership status, the third is your dues status and the fourth is your *Striking Sixth* status. Keep in mind dues and subscription fees are due January 1 of each year; if your label reads "2012" or before for dues or newsletter subscription, you will need to pay them the end of December 2012.

**IMPORTANT:** I now have a new e-mail address so if you are someone who contacts me often by e-mail, please be sure you change my address to: [sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.

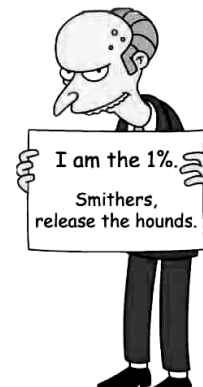
### MEMBERSHIP STATUS AS OF JULY 15, 2012

Regular Members	1,341
Associate Members	603
Lineal Descendants	220
Honorary Members	—8
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>2,172</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

### NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS AS OF JULY 15, 2012

144	Paid through 2013-2021
211	Paid through 2012
151	Paid through 2011



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## **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.

BELCHER, Gilbrt	Associate	1/19/2012
BROWN, Marcus B.	6 <sup>th</sup> Engineer-A	Unknown
CHILDS, Donald J.	6 <sup>th</sup> Motor Transport-A	Unknown
DiDESIDERIO, Anna Mae	Widow of Sam DiDesiderio	4/12/2012
DiDESIDERIO, Sam A.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-2-H	1/16/2012
DOLAN, Michael F. X.	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-3-G	5/14/2009
GILBERT, Bernard J.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-Wpns	11/26/2012
HAM, Clayton E.	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-1-HQ	Unknown
HECHT, William A.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-1-B	5/02/2012
HUNT, Howard L.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-1-B	Unknown
MAYHORN, Robert J.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-1-HQ	2/18/2012
McBEATH, Andy W.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-3-L	Unknown
MINER, George T.	15 <sup>th</sup> Mar-H&S	Unknown
MURRAY, Eugene J.	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-H&S	5/08/2012
RICHARDS, Matilda	Wife of John Richards	11/18/2011
RODEN, Ralph	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar-1-A	1/23/2012
RUBLE, Raymond R.	6 <sup>th</sup> Mar Div-HQ-MP	Unknown
SCHLINDER, Ray	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-3-K	4/12/2012
SLAUGHTER, Glen K. (NM)	6 <sup>th</sup> Marine Division	4/02/2012
TSO, Samuel (NM)	Navajo Code Talker	5/09/2012
WOLF, Joseph L.	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar-2-F	Unknown

## **DONATIONS**

### **DIRECTORY:**

ASCHER, David  
BRILL, David  
MILLER, Charles C.

### **GENERAL FUND:**

ASCHER, David  
BRILL, David  
CAMISE, Nancy  
RATLIFF, S. Louise  
ROWLAND, June  
RUSH, Ted

### **LIFE CARD:**

SOIFER, Oscar

### **MEMORIAL MARKER:**

ASCHER, David  
MILLER, Charles C.

### **NEWSLETTER FUND:**

Ladies Auxilary

## **NEW MEMBERS – Summer 2012**

ASCHER, Jr., David C., ID #6167  
Great Nephew of Robert H. Ascher  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mar-3-K, Life Associate LD  
2208 NE Patrican St  
Jensen Beach, FL 34957-5512  
720-334-3384  
[davidascher@bellsouth.net](mailto:davidascher@bellsouth.net)

HUGHES, Sandra, ID #6170  
Daughter of Gordon H. Mengel  
6<sup>th</sup> Marine Div-HQ Signal, Annual  
Assoc. LD  
200 Buras Ranch Rd  
Covington, LA 70433-6307  
985-893.-2036  
[sandrahughes@bellsouth.net](mailto:sandrahughes@bellsouth.net)

McKNIGHT, Tim, ID #66168  
Son of Harry McKnight  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-H, Life Associate LD  
Karen (Spouse)  
336 Bryan Circle  
New Philadelphia, OH 44663-3286  
330-204-2352  
[Tamkfm4k@aol.com](mailto:Tamkfm4k@aol.com)

McKNIGHT, Tom, ID #6169  
Son of Harry McKnight  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-H, Life Associate LD  
Liz (Spouse)  
6321 Alissa Lane  
Columbus, OH 43213-3456  
760-613-5392  
[Deaksters@aol.com](mailto:Deaksters@aol.com)

WALTERS, David L., ID #6165  
Son of Harold Walters  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mar-2-F, Life Associate LD  
16401 62<sup>nd</sup> Pl W  
Lynnwood, WA 98037

WALTERS, Robert A., ID #6166  
Son of Harold Walters  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mar-2-F, Life Associate LD  
6000 Northgate Ct  
Woodridge, IL 60517

# They Had Guts Back Then, Or Had They Just Gone Insane

Shortly after WWII a guy named Art Lacey went to Kansas to buy a surplus B-17. His idea was to fly it back to Oregon , jack it up in the air and make a gas station out of it. He paid \$15,000 for it. He asked which one was his and they said take whichever you want because there were miles of them. He didn't know how to fly a 4-engine airplane so he read the manual while he taxied around by himself. They said he couldn't take off alone so he put a mannequin in the co-pilot's seat and off he went.

He flew around a bit to get the feel of it and when he went to land he

realized he needed a co-pilot to lower the landing gear. He crashed and totaled his plane and another on the ground. They wrote them both off as "wind damaged" and told him to pick out another. He talked a friend into being his co-pilot and off they went.

They flew to Palm Springs where Lacey wrote a hot check for gas. Then they headed for Oregon. They hit a snow storm and couldn't find their way, so they went down below 1000 feet and followed the railroad tracks. His partner sat in the nose section and would yell, "TUNNEL" when he saw one and Lacey would climb over the mountain.

They landed safely, he made good the hot check he wrote, and they started getting permits to move a B-17 on the state highway. The



highway department repeatedly denied his permit and fought him tooth and nail for a long time, so late one Saturday night, he just moved it himself. He got a \$10 ticket from the police for having too wide a load.

## 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			
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@sbcglobal.net Phone: 817-275-1552			

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

**NOTICE**  
**Subscription**  
**Fee of \$10**  
**Payable Now**

<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>		
Check your name and address (zip code, Apt/Bldg/Lot No.) Notify the Membership Manager if you find an error.				
<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.				



# 6th Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court Arlington, TX 76011



**Striking Sixth Newsletter**

**Summer 2012**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## How Do They Do This?



**We could do Close Order Drill, But Not Like This.**