

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 38, No. 1

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2013



2013 Reunion — Quantico, VA

When: August 14-18

Where: Holiday Inn Quantico Center, Dumfries, VA

Main Activities:

Wednesday – Welcome Reception

Thursday – Trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps
Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

Friday – Tour of the Marine Corps Base

Saturday – General Meeting and Auction
Memorial Service and Dinner at the Museum

For More Information on the Reunion:

page 2 — General Information and Instructions

page 11 — Hotel Information

page 12 — Complete Schedule of Events

page 13-14 — Registration Form

page 15 — Things To Do Around Quantico

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Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion

Why Quantico?

Several of the Marines at the Portland reunion suggested it. The big attractions are the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Base.

Why August?

We are hoping that lineal descendants who are teachers and students will be able to attend. While it might be hot, all activities are indoors, and they have air conditioning in Quantico!

Why the Holiday Inn?

The hotel is only three miles from the National Museum of the Marine Corps. It has a room big enough to hold our entire group. All public areas are wheel chair accessible, and it has the largest number of wheel chair accessible rooms in the area. There is a restaurant on site (open for breakfast and dinner only) and a small strip mall next door with a couple of places to eat. Finally, the hotel has two event managers onsite and caters to military reunions.

When do I need to decide?

The deadline is July 14 to ensure you get a hotel room at the Holiday Inn. After that date, reservations will be taken on an availability basis only.

What do I need to do if I want to attend?

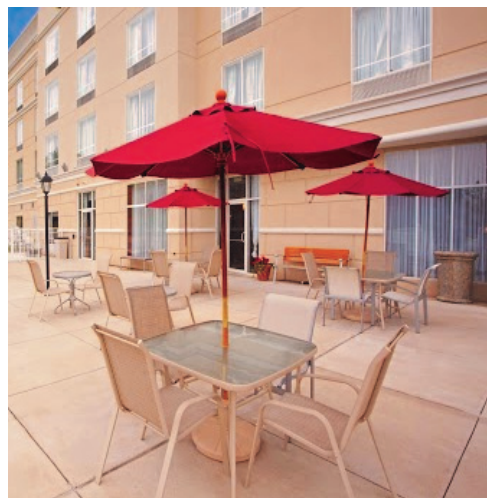
1. **Make your hotel reservations** by calling the hotel directly at 703-441-9001 or central reservations at 1-800-HOLIDAY. Be sure to mention the Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion or group code WW2 for our special rate. For more information, see page 11.
2. **Complete the registration form** on pages 13 and 14 indicating the activities you plan to participate in. Send the form with your check to Sharon Woodhouse at the address on the form.
3. **Make your transportation arrangements.** See page 11 for more information.



Holiday Inn Quantico Center



Holiday Inn Lobby



Holiday Inn Patio



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2012-2013
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22nd Marines	Bob Russell
29th Marines	Henry B. Kemp
6th Motor Trans Battalion	Vacant
6th Medical Battalion	Jack Rice
6th Engineering	Burr Allen
6th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta
6th Pioneer Battalion	Marvin Gromley
6th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6th Recon Company	Joe Singleton
6th JASCO	Dick Roberts
1st Amphibs	George Tremblay

Membership Manager

Florence Dornan

The Striking Sixth Newsletter

This newsletter is an official publication of the Sixth Marine Division Association and is published for members of the Association.

The subscription rate is \$10 per calendar year.

Membership applications, dues, donations, address changes, and record changes should be mailed to:

Florence R. Dornan
Membership Manager
704 Cooper Court
Arlington, TX 76011

Please make checks payable to:
Sixth Marine Division Assn., Inc.

Suggestions for the newsletter are welcome and should be sent to the editor, Carroll McGowan, at chm1423@aol.com or 1423 Pueblo Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

Note on Newsletter Costs

The last issue had a report on the cost of producing the newsletter, which exceeded the budget for the prior year. This has been addressed as follows: The Editor will do the layouts, so we no longer need to pay the printer to do this. This will save a substantial amount of money and bring the newsletter costs under budget.

From the Editor

Just a short note to introduce myself as your new editor. My goal is to create a newsletter that has the information you need and material you will enjoy reading. My tie to the Sixth Division is through my late father-in-law, Robert McGowan, who served in H Company, 3rd Battalion, 29th Marines. Some of you know his son and my husband, Bob, who is the Judge Advocate.

My own father was in the Navy during World War II. He was on a ship headed to Japan when we dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. He taught me from a young age that I owe the freedom I enjoy to those who were – and are – willing to fight for our country.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your sacrifice and your service. I can never truly know what you experienced, but I know what it achieved: freedom – a gift we must never take for granted.

While I am on the subject of gratitude, I would like to thank Joe Singleton for his many years editing this newsletter, and especially for all his help – and patience – in teaching me all about the Striking Sixth Newsletter.

~ Carroll McGowan

Letters to the editor, materials for publication, suggestions, and feedback can be sent to Carroll McGowan at:

chm1423@aol.com or

1423 Pueblo Dr., Pittsburgh, PA, 15228

Chaplain's Report



We know that in the Marine Corps, when a Marine is discharged from active duty, there is a fellowship that lasts long after the uniforms are hung in the back closet or even thrown away. It will be with him every step he or she takes.

We experience this, the greatest fraternity the world has ever known, when we meet again in our association to share stories, often re-told but still enjoyed.

I wear my USMC ball cap when out shopping or just running errands. Often some stranger will stop me and thank me for my service. When I see another Marine, it is immediate friendship and we compare service. I always say Okinawa WWII and they say, "Wow, that was a long time ago." We explain what we are doing now, and we part with Semper Fi and an OORAW.

Never think for one moment we are done with that life. We still are only on leave from active duty and look at our American flag with tears in our eyes. When we pass a Marine Flag on a house, we want to stop and say thanks, but many times we don't bother but toot the car horn in respect.

Quantico will be a good reunion whatever happens. The years keep piling up and the walkers and canes will increase, but with the help of the lineal descendants we will meet again. We only must keep in mind that our God in Heaven has a plan for us. Our World is changing, but we Marines are not and never will be part of any corruption of our country.

May your days be sunny and pleasant 'till we meet again. I send each of you my humble blessings in the name of our Savior.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

Ladies Auxiliary Report

Hello all Wives, Descendants and Marines.

Not long now till our Quantico Reunion. I am anxious to see what is in store for us. I know Harry and a lot of you have been donors to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and I am anxious to see the display they have for the 6th Division. I know the Marines have a variety of memories of their times at Camp. It will be fun to see what the descendants have planned for the reunion. I know that Bob McGowan and his wife Carroll have worked hard to make this special, as have the three female descendants who are officers of the association, Connie, Lisa and Sharon.

I am hoping all of you bring your albums to share once again. I personally love to look at the albums and scrap books of others. Since we are driving this time, it will be easier for us to bring our album from our trip to Okinawa in 1998. Wow, was it really 15 years ago? Of course we will have Harry's album of his time on that island during the war.

Keep in mind that we still have the craft and "white elephant" table with items for purchase. If you have a hobby please share your talent. This includes our Marines too as we know a lot of them have many hidden talents.



Ladies, be sure to make plans to join us for the Ladies Auxiliary meeting on Thursday evening, I have an enlightening and fun time planned for the program.

~ Barbara McKnight

Ladies Auxiliary President

Message from the President

Hi All,

It seems like it wasn't that long since the Reunion in Portland. And it won't be that long until we meet in Quantico in August. Time seems to fly.

I wish I were able to reminisce and write about the memories that you (the founding brothers of the Sixth Marine Division that are here now and those that have gone before) have of World War II. But wait, I do have some fond memories — not those of way back when, but since I have become a part of your very "elite" group. And I say "elite" with the utmost respect. I am very honored and touched beyond words to be your current President. It has been a labor of love for me. I feel like I have become a part of all of your families.

My message to all the young people would be to please come and join us. Your father, mother, uncle, aunt, brother, sister, or cousin do not have to be present for you to be a part of this wonderful group. I can attest to that. My father passed in 2006, and I have since come to every reunion to honor his memory and his love of the 6th Marines. My only regret is that I didn't come sooner to be able to get to know many more of you.

With that being said, I look forward to seeing my former acquaintances and to making new ones at Quantico this year.

Take care and God bless.

Semper Fi,
Connie



Editor's Note: Connie is absolutely correct about the reunions. I went to my first reunion in Cleveland in 2011. I knew no one other than my husband, and my only link to the Sixth Division was through my father-in-law. I was warmly welcomed by everyone I met, and they embraced me as one of them.

Battle of the Pacific: The Vortex

This article was first run in Time Magazine on May 28, 1945.

There were 50 Marines on top of Sugar Loaf Hill. They had been ordered to hold the position all night, at any cost. By dawn, 46 of them had been killed or wounded by Japanese hand grenades. Then, into the foxhole where the remaining four huddled, the Japs dropped a white phosphorus shell, burning three men to death. The last survivor crawled down to an aid station.

Fighting was like that last week on Okinawa. In one Jap counterattack, a U.S. company was reduced from 240 effectives to two, and three company commanders were killed by artillery. In another Jap assault, which lasted from dusk until the next afternoon, U.S. cooks, bakers and clerks were shoved into the fighting line.

Like Saipan and Iwo Jima, Okinawa was a base absolutely essential to the U.S. plan; it had to be taken, no matter how bloody the price. It was clear now that the final price would faithfully reflect Okinawa's ample size (921 square miles) and its suitable nearness to Japan (325 miles). For the moment, Okinawa was the vortex of the war.

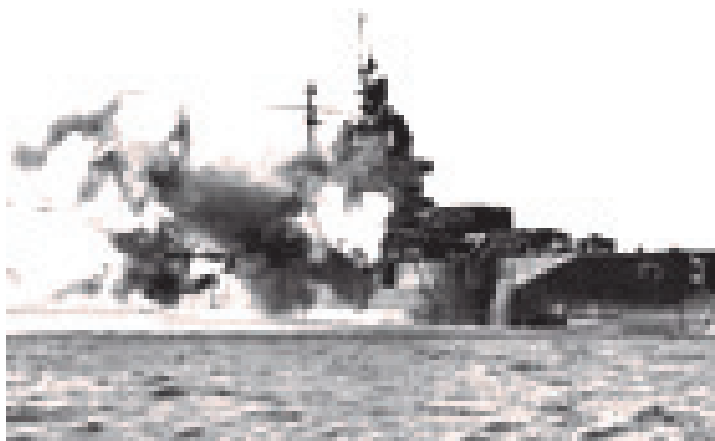
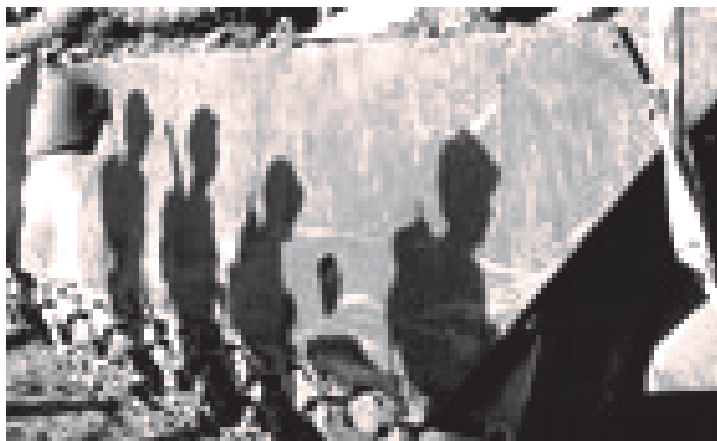
The Stout Castle. The broken, ugly terrain—reddish clay, volcanic ash, coral outcroppings—was the kind the burrowing Japs like. Among the ridges, spurs, knobs and gullies were innumerable caves and underground passages, to which the Japs added their own dugouts and pillboxes. In one tunnel they had laid narrow-gauge rails to move artillery. They moved into the stone tombs in which Ryukyu Islanders bury their dead, and reinforced them with concrete.

For a bolt position in the center of their line, the Japs had the ancient citadel of Shuri, visited by Commodore Perry in 1853. In Shuri castle, the biggest structure on the island, the Ryukyu kings had lived before the Japs took over, a quarter century after Perry's visit. Last week a U.S. battleship scored 25 direct hits on the castle, but the shells bounced off, said an observer, like "rubber balls."

Whoever held 300-ft. Sugar Loaf controlled the western approach to Shuri castle, as well as the eastern flank of Naha, Okinawa's capital city. Leathernecks of Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd's 6th Marine Division assaulted Sugar Loaf nine times, and were four times blown off the crest before they could move down the far side. Hundreds of Japs piling out of caves and tombs were slaughtered by the 6th's tanks.

Chocolate Drop, a 130-ft. reddish-brown mound, was another tough obstacle on the way to Shuri. For six days the 77th Infantry Division fought see-saw battles for the top, and finally won it. The Japs also counterattacked Conical Hill and clung to positions on the south slope, barring access to the west coast port of Yonabaru. On the east coast, Marine patrols found Naha a stinking, corpse-littered ruin.

The battle was being won slowly, by killing Japs. Some 48,000 out of the original defense force (80,000 to 85,000) had been put out of action. U.S. casualties were also high—more than 30,000 of whom 8,000 were dead or missing—but the U.S. units could expect reinforcements and the Japs could not. The Tokyo radio took a "grave view" of the situation on bloody Okinawa.



Okinawa Hero Earns Our Respect

This is an abbreviated version of an article by Terry Frei that ran in the Denver Post on May 31, 2010.

During fighting against Japanese forces on Okinawa on the morning of May 18, 1945 shrapnel struck Marine Lt. Charles E. Behan in the mouth. Behan's runner Bill Hulek wondered if the severely bleeding lieutenant would head back to the aid station.

Behan insisted on staying on the front lines.

"He kept on changing cotton in his mouth," Hulek told me from his home in Castleton, N.Y.

Behan had a last charge to make — up Sugar Loaf Hill.

Born in Crystal Lake Il, the man called Charlie and Chuck played end at Northern Illinois State Teachers College. He was a Detroit Lions rookie in 1942, when many young Americans enlisted in the Armed Services and awaited their call-ups.

Flash forward to Guadalcanal where Behan's division of the Sixth Marines was training. He was playing in a Christmas Eve touch football game between teams representing the 4th and 29th Regiments. I came across the game when I researched my book, "Third Down and a War to Go." I've writ-

ten in the paper about several other Marines who played in it.

Today, it is Behan's turn.

He was the 29th Marines' player-coach and team captain in what the roster sheets passed out that day labeled "The Football Classic." Thousands of Marines, including high-ranking brass, ringed the mostly coral and rock field to

watch the teams made up of mostly college and NFL players. The "Classic," a touch game that mocked the word "touch," ended in a scoreless tie.

Most Marine players and spectators involved in the game moved on to Okinawa in April 1945. During the 82-day Okinawa Campaign, the Battle for Sugar Loaf Hill lasted more than a week. The Division's regiments made 11 or 12 furious assaults, only the last two gaining any appreciable ground. Behan, with the bloody cotton in his mouth, was among the front runners in this costly charge.

"We went up Sugar Loaf and got up there all right," Hulek told me. Behan tossed grenades at a Japanese machine gun nest and used his carbine until it jammed, so he took my rifle and started shooting again. Behan was hit by machine gun fire.

"The bullets came right out of his back," Hulek said, "and you could see his jacket raised — plink, plink, plink."

Posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, Behan was one of 12 players in the Guadalcanal "Classic" killed on Okinawa. Behan's company, Fox of the 29th Marines, had 28 men killed on that hill in this one day. The next morning the company commander reported 60 Marines ready for duty. That's out of the normal rifle company allotment of about 250.

Today — and I hope always — we salute the men of this article. And all the others.



Patriotism Then and Now

*The letter below was written by **Sam Petriello** and appeared in *The Times Herald of Montgomery County, PA* on November 11, 2012.*

To watch and see this country come together when war broke out was something to behold. There was a certain amount of war profiteering and draft dodging, but as a rule, it was amazing. Farm boys, factory hands and students were drafted or enlisted, trained for a few months and were transformed into patriotic American warriors – 15 million of them. Women were taken out of the kitchen, and in a few months, were welding ships and running machine shops and transporting planes. The War Department went to Henry Ford and told him we needed planes and tanks, and he built Willow Run and began to produce thousands of them. They went to Henry Kaiser for ships, and in several weeks, he was producing liberty ships and transports. Navy yards were making war ships every week.

We always said the cream rises to the top. Our country had Admirals Nimitz and Halsey. Generals like Marshall, MacArthur, Bradley, Patton, LeMay, Arnold, Shepherd and Smith and the greatest of them all, in my opinion, General Leslie Groves, who never left the U.S. or fired a gun but was a brilliant engineer. He built the Pentagon in 18 months. He put together egotistical, self-centered scientists and physi-

cists and built a city, Los Alamos, and produced an atomic bomb, tested it successfully, and produced two more dropping them on Japan, effectively ending the war. And while that move may be criticized by revisionist historians, there is no doubt that the Japanese had 2,000 kamikaze planes waiting for our invasion. Our troop transports were their first objectives. And by our own count, the move prevented over one million casualties.

I fought in the last battle of Okinawa, participating in the first landing in Japan, and the surrender of Japanese forces in North China. My regiment of the Sixth Marine Division was picked to represent the Marine Corps, and it was part of that initial landing at the Yokosuka Naval Base. Our duties were to secure the base and accept the surrender of outlying army bases and secure the coastal guns.

I was recently speaking to my daughter, Nancy, who is a high school teacher, about how high American pride was during World War II, and how I feel that our nation may never come together quite like it did at that time in the 1940s. As I said, it wasn't just overseas or on the battlefield that patriotism was evident. The entire country

worked together rationing, buying war bonds, and helping each other during the tough times. It was a time when democracy triumphed over tyranny, and a time that truly showed American pride, work ethic, and patriotism at its finest.

There was no doubt or wavering. There was a tremendous respect for the leaders of this country, and the nation stood unified. I have great memories of that time – and although some are sad and mournful of those who lost their lives for the cause, I will forever treasure that harmony and that love of country. Our country has become more partisan and more disjointed than ever. I hope that those who will now carry on the traditions of honor and patriotism for our country, and those who will lead our country in the future will remember what we fought for and died for in World War II. As World War II fades into the distant past, it is my strongest hope that our country's sense of patriotism, service, and loyalty does not.





Sixth Marine Division Scholarship Fund, 2008- 2013

Academic Year	Recipients	Dollars Paid Out
2012 – 2013	10 students (all grandchildren)	\$20,000 YTD
2011 – 2012	5 students (2 children, 3 grandchildren)	\$13,500
2010 – 2011	4 students (all grandchildren)	\$4,000
2009 – 2010	7 students (all grandchildren)	\$4,758
2008 – 2009	15 students (all grandchildren)	\$11,850

2012- 2013 Scholarship Recipients

Student	School Attending	Grandparent
Corey Aday	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Richard L. Anderson
Taylor Denecke	James Madison University	Kenneth W. Denecke
Hayley Feightner	University of Dayton	Douglas P. Gordon
Amanda Franco	Saint Leo University	Dewey L. Franco
David Gonzalez	Concordia University – WI	Brice W. Gonzalez
Aaron Hansen	The Citadel	
Krystal Michelsen	Dowling College	Robert R. Michelsen
Ariana Pardo	Allan Hancock College	Ronald A. Manson
Eric Roberts	Lock Haven University of PA	Richard M. Roberts
Michelle Roberts	Slippery Rock University	Richard M. Roberts

How To Apply

Applications for the 2014–2015 school year will be taken from January 1 through March 1, 2014.

Grandchildren are welcome to create accounts on the website at www.mcsf.org. They will then receive an e-mail when the next application season begins. Marines will need to provide a copy of their DD214 and proof of their membership in the 6th Marine Division Association to their grandchild to confirm their eligibility. The application process is entirely the responsibility of the grandchild.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob McGowan at (412) 341-9219 or chmcg11@aol.com.

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based scholarships to children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen, with particular attention given to those whose parent has been killed or wounded in combat, or who have demonstrated financial need. This year, the Scholarship Foundation celebrates 50 years of "Honoring Marines by Educating Their Children."

Marine Generals Showing Rare Dominance Of Top Jobs

This is an abbreviated version of an article by Jim Michaels that ran in USA Today on February 24, 2013.

When U.S. and NATO top brass gathered in Kabul to mark a change in the top leadership this month, all three American generals lined up on stage were Marines.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country, but for the second consecutive time President Obama nominated a Marine to lead the war there. Joining the outgoing and incoming commanders on stage was Marine Gen. Jim Mattis, chief of the command that oversees all forces in the Middle East region.

Little noticed outside defense circles, it was a historic moment for the Marine Corps, a seagoing service whose humble beginnings were to provide security and landing parties for Navy ships.

"The Marine Corps is clearly punching above its weight," said Peter Mansoor, a retired Army colonel and military history professor at Ohio State University. "This is a very unusual and singular moment in Marine Corps history."

The Marines are aware of just how singular it is.

With 195,000 troops it is the smallest service of the armed forces, representing only 8% of the overall Defense Department budget. Until World War II, the Marines didn't have an active duty four-star general.

Today it has six four-star generals, a record number, serving in prominent positions around the world. Gen. John Allen, who stepped down as commander in Afghanistan, was the first Marine to command an entire theater of war.

The commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James Amos, said it was not something that happened by design. "We've just got a string of very seasoned combat generals."

The success Marines have had in top positions may also have something to do with their leadership training, Mansoor said.

"I think there is something about how Marines approach professional military education that produces officers with a broad view of the world and who are flexible and can deal with the very different challenges of the type of wars we're fighting today," he said.

The Marine Corps is as much a mindset as it is a set of capabilities. The service bills itself as an expeditionary force, able to get to hot spots fast with lots of firepower. But its reputation is built on something less tangible: fighting spirit, or what Marines call *esprit de corps*.

"Marines don't celebrate their technology to the same extent as the Navy and Air Force," said Aaron O'Connell, a Marine reserve officer and author of *Underdogs: The Making of the Modern Marine Corps*.

"I think the Marines have a cultural advantage over the other services when it comes to dealing with chaos and uncertainty," O'Connell said.

The Marine Corps is particularly sensitive to competition from the other services, who in the past have been behind efforts to eliminate or shrink the corps. The Marine Corps has survived 20 such attempts since its founding in 1775, O'Connell said.

The Corps' popularity on Capitol Hill and among the American public has always saved it, but that history has infused Marines with a healthy dose of paranoia.

"The Marine Corps should not worry about its organizational survival," Mansoor said. "The American people have embraced it as an institution."



Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion

HOLIDAY INN QUANTICO CENTER ~ 3901 Fettle Park Drive, Dumfries, VA



Room Rate:

\$108.90 per room per night, single or double occupancy (includes all taxes)

This rate is also available three days before and three days after the event.

Room Amenities:

- Rooms have a microwave, refrigerator, hair dryer, iron, ironing board, desk and 32-inch flat screen TV
- One king bed or two queen beds
- All rooms are non-smoking
- Seven wheelchair accessible rooms are available

Other Hotel Amenities:

- Free parking
- Free high speed internet throughout the hotel
- Fitness center and outdoor pool

Check in is 4:00 p.m. Early check in may be available.

Check out is 11:00 a.m.

To Make Reservations:

- Call 703-441-9001 (hotel's direct line) or 800-HOLIDAY (central reservations).
- Mention the Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion or group code WW2 for the special rate.
- Have your credit card in hand when you call. Your credit card guarantees your room, but it will not be charged until you get there.

Deadline for reservations is July 14, 2013. After that date, reservations will be taken on an availability basis only. Cancellations will be accepted up to 24 hours before arrival date.

If you have any questions or need help making reservations, contact Sharon Woodhouse at 503-642-2429.

Hotel Website: <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/dumfries/dumva/hoteldetail>

Spring 2013

Directions to the Hotel

If you are driving:

- From I-95 North or South, take exit 152B.
- Turn left on Van Buren Road.
- Turn left on Fettle Park Drive.
- The hotel is located on the right.

From the Train Station:

- The Amtrak train station (WDB) is 4 miles north of the hotel. Cabs are available at the station.

From Reagan National Airport (DCA):

- The airport is 30 miles northeast of the hotel.
- Take George Washington Memorial Pkwy North for 1.2 miles.
- Merge onto I-395 South towards Richmond.
- I-395 South becomes I-95 South.
- Take Exit 152B and follow driving directions above.

From Dulles International Airport (IAD):

- The airport is 34 miles northwest of the hotel.
- Take VA 28 South.
- Take I-66 West.
- Take A 234 South.
- Turn right onto Van Buren Road and follow driving directions above.

Transportation from the Airport to the Hotel

Since there is no host family living in the area, we are unable to provide transportation for those flying. However, the Holiday Inn recommends two shuttle services:

GM Sedan

- Cost Estimate (each way)
 - From Reagan: \$65 per car, or \$95 per SUV (holds 7)
 - From Dulles: \$85 per car, or \$150 per SUV
- How To Arrange
 - Call 571-221-6960 about a week before leaving.

SuperShuttle

- Cost Estimate (each way)
 - From Reagan: \$60 for 1st person, \$10 for each additional person up to 7
 - From Dulles: \$75 for 1st person, \$10 for each additional person up to 7
- How To Arrange
 - Reserve online at www.supershuttle.com or by calling 800-258-3826. Reservations are recommended.
 - You can also go to the ticket counter at the lower level of either airport and purchase a ticket there. They are open every day early in the morning until late at night. If you arrive after they are closed, call 800-258-3826 for assistance.

Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day	Time	Event	Cost Per Person
Wednesday	10:00 am – 7:00 pm	Registration Desk	free
August 14	11:00 am – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	free*
	7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Welcome Reception <i>hors d'oeuvres and drinks</i>	free
Thursday	7:30 am – 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room <i>coffee, tea, muffins, and bagels</i>	free
August 15	9:00 am – 7:00 pm	Registration Desk	free
	9:30 am – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	free*
	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	National Museum of the Marine Corps <i>cost for Transportation**</i>	free \$20.00
		<i>Note: there will be several trips each way for those who do not want to stay the whole time.</i>	
	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	free
Friday	7:30 am – 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room <i>coffee, tea, muffins, and bagels</i>	free
August 16	9:00 am – 7:00 pm	Registration Desk	free
	9:30 am – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	free*
	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	Marine Corps Base Bus Tour and Lunch <i>cost for transportation and lunch</i>	\$25.00
	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Board Meeting	free
Saturday	7:30 am – 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room <i>coffee, tea, muffins, and bagels</i>	free
August 17	9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Desk	free
	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	General Meeting and Auction, Hospitality Room	free
	12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Hospitality Room	free*
	5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Memorial Service, Semper Fi Chapel at Museum	free
	7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Dinner Banquet. Leatherneck Gallery of the National Museum of the Marine Corps <i>Cost for transportation to service and banquet**</i>	\$45.00 \$20.00
		<i>Note: There will be multiple trips back to the hotel for those who do not want to stay until 11:00.</i>	
Sunday	11:00 am	Check out	
August 18		Goodbye until 2014!	

*There is a \$25.00 registration fee that will cover snack and refreshment costs in the Hospitality Room.

**If you elect to drive yourself to the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Thursday and Saturday, there is no cost for transportation.

Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion

REGISTRATION FORM



Please complete this form and send with your check to:

Sharon Woodhouse
2013 Reunion
20585 SW Genoa Court
Aloha, OR 97007

For help completing this form, please contact Sharon Woodhouse:

phone: (503) 642-2429 (home) or (503) 799-4455 (cell)
e-mail: sjawoodhouse@gmail.com

Checks should be made payable to 6th Marine Division Association, Inc.

Please use the reverse side to calculate the amount due.

Name: _____ Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Company: _____ Battalion: _____ Regiment: _____ Serial Number (optional): _____

Lineal Descendant/of Whom: _____

In case of emergency during the reunion:

Contact: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone(s): _____

_____ Attending my 1st Reunion _____ Will help out

_____ Wheelchair Bound _____ Use Motorized Wheelchair _____ Use Cane or Walker

Special Needs (please specify): _____

Special Dietary Restrictions (please specify): _____

_____ Will bring auction item (donors will be announced; please label your item)

Will be arriving by (please specify mode of transportation): _____

Due to the fact that there is no host family in the area, we will not be able to provide transportation to the hotel. Please see page 11 for more information on how to get to the hotel.

Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion

REGISTRATION FORM



Activities and Costs

Please fill in the information below to calculate the amount due.
See the schedule on page 12 for more information.

Checks should be made out to: 6th Marine Division Association, Inc.

Please mail your check with this form to Sharon Woodhouse at the address on the reverse side.

Registration Fee (to support the Hospitality Room)

Member -- \$25.00 (spouses are free) \$ _____

Guests -- # guests attending: _____ x \$25.00 \$ _____

Thursday, August 15

Transportation to the National Museum of the Marine Corps
needing transportation: _____ x \$20.00 \$ _____

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
attending: _____ (no cost)

Friday, August 16

Marine Corps Base Bus Tour and Lunch
attending: _____ x \$25.00 \$ _____

Saturday, August 17

Dinner Banquet
attending: _____ x \$45.00 \$ _____

Transportation to the National Museum of the Marine Corps
needing transportation: _____ x \$20.00 \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____

If you have a name badge holder from prior reunions, please bring it.

Put your thinking caps on as we need to decide about next year's reunion at the general meeting.

Things To Do Near Quantico

For those who want to extend their stay, there's a lot to do in the area.

Washington D.C. — 28 miles north

See the Smithsonian Institution, Capitol Building, White House, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Library of Congress, National Archives, Arlington National Cemetery, National Zoo, and more



World War II Memorial

Mount Vernon — 17 miles north east

Beautiful home of our nation's first President on the banks of the Potomac River

Manassas National Battlefield — 20 miles north west

Site of two major battles in the Civil War

Fredericksburg — 25 miles south

Historic colonial town and site of two Civil War battles

Potomac Mills Outlet Mall — 4 miles north

Virginia's largest outlet mall with more than 200 stores

Prince William Forest National Park — 3 miles

15,000 acre piedmont forest with more than 37 miles of hiking trails and 21 miles of bicycle-accessible roads and trails



Manassas National Battlefield



Arlington National Cemetery



Mount Vernon



U.S. Capitol Building

MAIL CALL

Honor Flight

Hi Bill [Pierce],

I went on the Honor Flight to Washington in May and it was really great! All the volunteers and caregivers were beyond kind. We saw thousands of school children from first grade to high school and they were all polite and thanked us for our service. We hear about all the bad children out there, but I'm here to tell you there are a lot of good ones. I got to see all the memorials and some extras. On the way home we were given a mail-call. Inside a large manila envelope were letters from family, relatives, friends and school children. The ones from my family brought me to tears and I was not alone. If you haven't been on one, it's a heart warming experience. Just wanted to share my feelings. Hope all is well with you and yours.

Jack Houston

jackwhouston@yahoo.com



Stephen Gardner

Joe,

I am looking for information about the company my uncle served in during the Battle for Okinawa. He served in I Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. He was only with the unit for about a week before he was KIA. He arrived on 2 June and was killed on 11 Jun 1945. His name was Stephen " Junior" Gardner and some people called him

"Shorty." He was a transport truck driver. I know very little about the circumstances of his death, other than he was killed by a sniper. I would appreciate any information from anyone who served in the unit during this time period, whether you knew my uncle or not. I have attached a photo of him with a buddy (don't know who he is). My uncle is the one on the left. I hope you can post this in your newsletter. Thanks.

Kim Anglesey

kimanglesey@hotmail.com



Stephen Gardner (on left)



1st Platoon, F-22-222

Hello Mr. Singleton,

My grandfather (Lt.) Edwin Palmer was the platoon leader for 1st platoon for F-2-22 from late May '45 till China ('46). I was wondering if anyone has any info on any surviving members or families of anyone from that unit. I contacted a few members from the platoon a few years ago, but wanted to try to track down a few more, especially Lester D. "Red"

Bastedo, who I believe was close to my grandfather.

Any information would be most appreciated.

Thanks,

Elijah Palmer

elijahpalmer@gmail.com



George Brennen

Dear Sir,

I am conducting some research and I came across a book titled "My Ten Yard Front" by a George L. Brennen. I see a gentleman of this name is recorded on your current divisional roll. Would you be able to tell me if your George Brennan is the author of the book I have listed?

Thank you for any help you can provide.

John Larsen, Australia

John-Larsen@glc.qld.edu.au



Membership Renewal

Hi Florence,

Sorry I am a few months late. I hope I didn't miss anything. I will be 88 in June, but I still think I have a few good years yet. I was a combat Marine corpsman with the 6th and landed on Okinawa Easter Sunday.

Semper Fi,

Harvey Anderson

801 Linda Dr, PO Box 106

Eagle Lake, MN 56024-0106

[Note from the Membership Manager: Harvey renewed his subscription for two more years!]

MAIL CALL

B Co, 1st Bn, 29th Marines

Dear Flo,

Taking care of unfinished business. I should have mailed this last year, but unfortunately my mother passed away and my wife, Carolyn, was battling cancer, but everything is A-OK now.

This check is for my newsletter this year (2013), but I also request that the money leftover be given to one of our Gyrenes, particularly those left from B Co, 1st Bn, 29th Marines — if it would help them renew our newsletter or something else as you see fit. Also, would like very much to correspond or talk with any remaining member of this unit.

Will try very hard to make next year's reunion. My great-nephew is going in the Corps at Camp Pendleton in January for boot camp. Told him I would buy his dress blues if necessary.

Semper Fi,
Jack E. Lynch
1388 Vanzant Bend Road
Belvidere, TN 37306-2563



USMRA Reunion

Dear Striking 6th Editor:

My name is Andy Koehler and my father was Ralph Koehler of the 6th Marine Division Motor Transport Battalion. This January I assumed the presidency of the U.S. Marine Raider Association. The USMRA will be holding its reunion in Wilmington, NC 13-18 August. Although several

of your association members have attended our reunions in the past, I wanted to extend the invitation to anyone else who may be interested. Details may be found on the USMRA website:
www.usmarineraiders.org

And for those who might remember Paul Tousignant, KIA Okinawa, he was my uncle.

Semper Fidelis,
Andy Koehler



Grandson's Bronze Star

Hi Joe,

How is everything with you? Just returned from Corpus Christi. Had a great visit with son Rick and Dee his wife, and saw many old friends too. Lots of fun. At the same time Pam was in NYC having fun too. She met an old MC friend there to reminisce a while. Ha!

Been meaning to tell you about my grandson. Capt. Greg Rueth just returned from Afghanistan and at the award ceremony he was awarded a Bronze Star and the Combat Medic badge. He evidently does good work! We are proud of him. Still sorry I missed the last reunion. Hope

to make the next one.

Anxious to know where the reunion will be. Hope it is Quantico!

Semper Fi,
Joan Willauer
joanw.ok2@sbcglobal.net



1st Lt. Bryant Tripp

My ancestor First Lt. Bryant Tripp served with HQ Company, 1st Battalion, 29th Regiment during the war. Do you have any information you can share with me — any details on battles he was in or in which mentioned? I know he was awarded the Bronze Star, but don't know what battle and for what reason. Can you help? Do you have any references you can share? Any information is greatly appreciated.

Chris Carroll
US Marine Veteran
BA History NCWC
Cell (252) 528-0436
Nchistory@hotmail.com



Message from the Membership Manager

First of all, I want to thank Joe Singleton for his many years as editor of the “Striking Sixth” newsletter. He has done an outstanding job and I know he will be missed by all, but I will miss him more as we worked closely together.

Bad Addresses. I was rather disappointed that I did not receive any results from the list of members that we have lost contact with that was published in the last newsletter. Nevertheless, I will again publish a continuation of that list (F and G — see page 20) and ask each member to go through and check to see if you know the whereabouts of anyone on the list and report back to me so changes can be made. A letter was sent to every member with reunion information and I expect there will be a large number of returns, which will also help correct the status of many members.



IMPORTANT: Only members who have paid their subscription fee for the “Striking Sixth” newsletter for the current year of 2013 will receive a newsletter. This policy was approved by the Board of Directors at the 2012 Reunion. If your friend tells you he has not received a newsletter, tell him to look at the last newsletter label to see when his expiration date is for the newsletter. (See instructions at the bottom of the facing page.) A \$10 check to me made out to the Sixth Marine Division Association will cure the problem.

Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

New Members

CREMEENS, Angie T., ID #6181
Granddaughter of Oliver R. Welch
29th Mar-2-F
Life Associate LD Member
Eric (Spouse)
508 Mallard Park
Versailles, KY 40383
859-421-2498

CREMEENS, Eric B., ID #6182
Great grandson of Oliver R. Welch
29th Mar-2-F
Life Associate LD Member
508 Mallard Park
Versailles, KY 40383

MARTIN, Gillian, ID #6178
Son of Kenneth E. Martin
22nd Mar-1-B
Annual Associate LD Member
3833 25th Avenue W
Seattle, WA 98199
gillmar@att.net

MONTAGUE, Stanton M., ID #6180
22nd Mar- Signal Co., Reg.
Annual Member
66 Kent Street
Albany, NY
518-438-4813
smontague@nycap.rr.com

PALERMO, Alphonse (Phm2), ID #6179
6th Mar Medical-E Co-H&S, Reg.
Annual Member
RaeAnn (Spouse)
109 E Florida Avenue
Long Beach Twp, NJ 08008-3165
609-492-7316
annphil109@verizon.net

SIMMONS, Helen Abbott, ID #6177
Daughter of Frederick W. Abbott
29th Mar-2-HQ
Life Associate LD Member
320 Hidden Creek Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906-4385
hmasimmons@aol.com
719-344-9496

WOODHOUSE, Gregg, ID #6176
Husband of Sharon Woodhouse,
Daughter of OB. Aasland
15th Mar-3-H&S
Annual Associate Member
20585 SW Genoa Court
Beaverton, OR 97007-4131
woody4ntbear@frontier.com
503-642-2429

Donations

This period there were two donations to the Newsletter Fund:

John Pimental
Connie Houseweart
(above and beyond)

Membership Status @ March 23, 2013

Regular	1,318
Associate	598
Lineal Descendant	199
Honorary	8
Total Membership	2,123

Newsletter Subscribers @ March 23, 2013

Paid for 2012	128
Paid for 2013	155
Paid for 2014 and beyond	101

When first under fire and you're wishful to duck,
 Don't wish or take heed of the man who is struck,
 Be thankful you're living and trust to your luck,
 And march to your front like a soldier.

Rudyard Kipling



Membership Application / Change of Address Form

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Name _____
 Street Address _____ Apt _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 Phone (____) _____ - _____ E-Mail Address _____
 Company _____ Battalion _____ Regiment _____ Other _____
 If this is a change of address, enter your 4 digit ID#, which is on the left, right above your name on the mailing label _____
 Old Street Address _____ Apt _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 If you are applying for membership as an Associate Member, provide name of relative who served with the Sixth Marine Division:
 _____ Relationship _____
 His unit within the Division, if known _____
 Annual dues (\$10 per year).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____.....Amount due: \$ _____
 Life Membership (\$75).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____.....Amount due: \$ _____
 Subscription to the Striking Sixth Newsletter of the Sixth Marine Division (\$10 per year).....Amount due: \$ _____
Annual dues and subscriptions to the newsletter are based on a calendar year. Additional copies of the newsletter are \$3.50.

Donations

Membership Directory Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____
 Memorial Medallion Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____
 General Operating Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____
Make check payable to the Sixth Division Association Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: Florence R. Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011

E-mail: Sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net Phone: (817) 275-1552

Check your address on the back cover to see if your membership and newsletter are paid up to date.

If there is no barcode on your label, your address is not correct according to the USPS. Please contact your Post Office.

Regiment-Battalion-Company
 ID No. → 1695 29TH MAR-3-G 2013 2013
 WHITE, JAMES S
 2209 W HOLLEY AVE.
 DUNCAN, OK 73533-2007
 Newsletter Subscription
 Expires Dec. 31 of year shown
 Membership Dues Coding:
 LIFE—Life Membership (owe no dues)
 -or-
 Year—Expires Dec. 31 of year shown

Bad Addresses

-F-

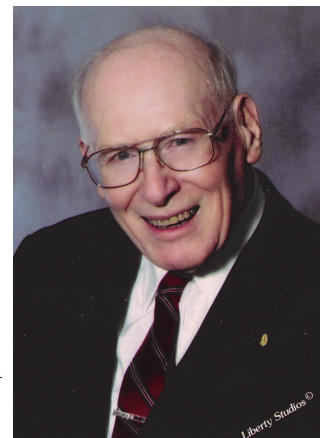
Fasolino, Lucy	Maraoneck, NY
Feci, Donald E.	Virginia Beach, VA
Felix, Frederick F.	Pittsburgh, PA
Ferrier, Robert E. L.	Bradenton, FL
Finkel, Florence	Newtown Square, PA
Finkeldey, Morgan O.	Maryland Heights, MO
Fisher, Walton B.	Deal, NJ
Flamm, Gerald R.	Los Altos, CA
Flemming, Mary Jo	Prescott, AZ
Flood, George H.	Pittsburgh, PA
Francis, Jim - PHM.	Staten Island, NY
Frantz, Ruth L.	Easton, PA
Fredrick, John M.	Asheville, NC
Freeman, Geoffrey B.	Easton, MD
French, Robert W.	Fort Myers Beach, FL
Frey, Joshua	San Diego, CA
Fultz, Troy M.	Morrow, OH
Furgason, Mrs. E.	Rohnert Park, CA

-G-

Gagliano, Jacob A.	New Orleans, LA
Galarneau, Christine	Sebastian, FL
Galvin, Henry F.	Santa Maria, CA
Gardner, Frank V.	Woodbridge, VA
Gardner, Myrtle	Medway, OH
Garland, James M.	Camp Hill, PA
Garrett, Morris M.	Fort Thomas, KY
Gehret, Irvin E.W.	Reading, PA
Gibbons, Eugene H.	Englewood, FL
Gibbons, Rose	Wimauma, FL
Gideon, Gill A. Jr.	Galloatin, TN
Gilliland, Mrs. Orville O.	Gallant, AL
Glancey, Francis	Bordenton, NJ
Golden, Robert J.	Lindale, TX
Gomeau, Francis C.	North Adams, MA
Gorczynski, John S.	Freehold, NJ
Grayhek, LeRoy	Spokane, WA
Green, Russell R.	Saint Paul, MN
Griggs, Truman	Surprise, AZ
Grine, Dorothy.	Prairie Grove, AR
Grossman, H. W.	Boca Raton, FL
Guidry, Mrs. Ovid	Opelousas, LA



Harold Walters



We are sorry to report that Harold E. Walters, 91, of Wooster, Ohio passed away on April 17, 2013. His presence will be greatly missed in Quantico. Those who were in Portland last year will remember the wonderful presentation he gave of his trip to Okinawa with his granddaughter. The following is from the obituary that appeared in the Daily Record of Wooster, Ohio.

Harold was born March 29, 1922, in New Philadelphia, Ohio. He married Bernice C. Shackelford on September 7, 1947.

Harold was a graduate of New Philadelphia High School, class of 1940, and The College of Agriculture, Ohio State University. He taught vocational agriculture for six years. He then worked in research in the Department of Horticulture, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center for 11 years. Harold retired from research at General Metals Powder Co. (GEMPCO), Akron, with 21 years of service.

Harold was an active member of Oak Chapel United Methodist Church since 1952, participating in numerous areas of leadership, including President of the United Methodist Men. He is a life member of Wooster American Legion Post 68 and participated in Legion ceremonies and military rites. He served his country during World War II with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific Theater during the battle for the Island of Okinawa, Japan. He served in Fox Company of the 22nd Marines, Sixth Marine Division.

He was a longtime Treasurer of the WW II 22nd Marines Association and participated in planning reunions. Harold was a life member and Treasurer of the Sixth Marine Division Association 22nd Regiment and served as President of The Wayne County Chapter of Ohio Public Employee Retirees Inc.

Surviving are sons, David L. (Haydee Tumbaga) Walters of Lynnwood, Wash., and Robert A. (Marian "May" Haskell) Walters of Woodridge, Ill.; grandchildren, Ashley "Nikki" and Ryan Walters of Woodridge, Ill., Michelle Walters of Alameda, Calif., and Christopher Walters of Lynnwood, Wash.

In addition to his wife, Harold was preceded in death by a son, Dean E. Walters; his parents; two sisters and a brother.



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.

BENTON, Clifford R.	15 th Mar-3-H&S	12/00/2012
BIASI, Nestore G.	6th Mar-HQ-HQ	03/03/2013
BRILL, Sarah	Widow of David J. Brill	09/21/2012
CUNNINGHAM, Jr., William	6 th Marine Division	12/08/2012
FRIZZELL, Mary E.	Wife of Russell E. Frizzell	07/00/2012
GAUER, Walter W.	6 th Marine Division	12/30/2012
HIBBARD, John M.	6th Pioneer-B	12/00/2012
JONES, Edward Tinkham	29 th Mar-1-B	11/16/2012
KOCH, John S.	22 nd Mar-E-2	10/04/2012
KRAUS, Andrew P.	6 th Engineer Bn-B	01/04/2013
LaHAYNE, Elden V.	6 th Tank Bn	01/13/2013
LeBLANC, Dale Paul	22nd Mar-1-HQ	01/06/2013
MONNETT, Jr., Charles G.	29th Marines	10/21/2012
NORAKO, Vincent	29th Mar-3	08/22/2012
O'KEEFE, William	4th Mar-2-G	02/17/2012
PETERSON, Donald	29 th Mar-2-F	11/20/2012
REED, James H.	22 nd Mar-3-HQ	02/19/2013
ROONEY, Ruth	Widow of Robert Rooney	unknown
SLEGER, Joseph	22 nd Mar-Wpns	07/08/2012
SPROATT, Doris	Widow of Carl Sproatt	01/10/2012
WALTERS, Harold	22nd Mar-2-F	04/17/2013
WOOLMAN, Bill G.	22nd Mar-2-F	11/13/2012

Doris Sproatt

It is with a heavy heart I tell you that on January 10, 2012, Doris Sproatt passed away after a short battle with lung cancer. She was diagnosed the week after Thanksgiving. On December 24th she experienced a drastic decline. In the days that followed, she was in bed and gave up the battle on the 10th.

The tumor was not operable and she refused treatment but experienced very little pain. Mom was always a tough old girl and not a complainer. We spent her last days together. She was able to see Eric and Erin. Erin shared the good news that she is expecting a baby in August.

She and Dad are now together... surely enjoying their reunion.

She will be sadly missed by us and all the friends she made over the last two years at her assisted living facility.

Jodie Rice
jrice002@columbus.rr.com.

Dale Paul LeBlanc

My father, Dale Paul LeBlanc, (World War II Marine) of Lafayette, Louisiana, died on January 6, 2013.

I just wanted to advise you of his passing so you could update your records. My dad was a proud Marine, and loved his country so much.

I hope that the upcoming reunion is filled with laughter and good memories. I know that the reunions my dad attended meant so much to him.

God bless, and many thanks.

Lisa L. Boudreaux
lisalboudreaux@gmail.com

Memorial Day for Sixth Marine Division Vet

This article by Cameron Rasmusson ran in the Bonner County Daily Bee in Idaho some years ago. The sentiments expressed by Sixth Marine Division vet, Bill Fournier, who passed away in 2011, are just as relevant today.

Memorial Day is doubly significant for World War II veteran Bill Fournier.

The holiday isn't only a day where his own experiences in combat come into sharp focus — it's also a time to remember his brother's sacrifice.

"The day is a chance to remember not only the veterans who survived," he said. "It also reminds me that I had a brother who gave his life for his country."

That's why Fournier, along with VFW commander Bill Stevens and other individuals, will be honoring veterans both fallen and living come this Monday at a 10 a.m. ceremony at Pinecrest Cemetery and noon gathering in Lakeview Cemetery. Priest River Memorial Day activities will occur at Evergreen, Oldtown Bridge, Newport and Cuski cemeteries. Finally, observances will take place at 9 a.m. at Clark Fork Cemetery and at 10:30 a.m. in Hope Cemetery.

For Stevens, Fournier, and other veterans, attendance is worth the trouble on a day off.

"My biggest disappointment is that most people just treat the day as a holiday," Stevens said, "This is a day to remember the people that have sacrificed for their country."

It's also a time to recollect the experiences of firsthand witnesses in some of the nation's most historic events. Fournier, for instance, served as a loader in the Company C, Sixth Tank Battalion of the Sixth Marine Division. He remembers the struggles in floating tanks toward beachheads at Okinawa over stretches of coral reef.

"We lost one of our tracks on some of that coral," he said. "When we hit the beach, we were spinning in circles until we got some help."

The life of a tanker in the Pacific Theater was a mixed experience. While some soldiers considered them "iron coffins" and the interior noise was ear-splitting, Fournier remembers his job fondly.

"I liked that old tank," he said. "It was my home."

More heroic to Fournier were the infantrymen that exposed themselves to enemy fire.

"They're the ones that deserve the real credit," he said.

Altogether, Fournier and his fellow Marines experienced 84 days of combat in the grueling Okinawa climate. Their efforts won the Allies one of its most critical final victories in the fight against Japan.

"I don't remember taking a single bath or shower that entire time, although I must have," he said.

Although he is now partially deaf from the tank noise and endured some harrowing experiences, Fournier remembers his service as one of the key events that shaped him. Stevens shares that sentiment. Given that fact, they're happy to extend their appreciation on Monday and hope others will too.

"I hope we have a good crowd and I hope the weather's nice," Stevens said. "It's important that we take the day to remember the veterans that have passed."



Sixth Marine Division Memorial at Quantico National Cemetery

**On Memorial Day we remember
and celebrate the lives of all
military men and women who gave
their lives to defend our country**



Freedom Isn't Free

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.
I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant "Amen,"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend.
I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.

- CDR Kelly Strong USCG (Ret), 1981

Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011



Striking Sixth Newsletter

Spring 2013

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The National Museum of the Marine Corps

