

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



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## Wounded Marines Visit Belleau Wood

As they do every year on the Sunday before Memorial Day, U.S. Marines joined their French hosts in a ceremony at Aisne-Marne American Cemetery located at the northern edge of Belleau Wood to remember the Americans who died turning back the German assault on Paris in 1918.



The Marines present included a contingent from the Wounded Warrior Regiment, whose trip was largely funded by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.

For more information and pictures, see pages 2-3.



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Back to the Front: Marine Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars Visit Important WWI Battle Site

By Patrick O’Donnell, 5/30/13 National Review Online

At Belleau Wood, just outside Paris, the scars of war are everywhere: shell holes so large they could hold a car, the remains of trenches, pockmarked stone walls and trees that still contain pockets of mustard gas trapped deep in their trunks.

Here, 95 years ago, the U.S. Marines stopped the German army’s last great offensive of World War I.

This week, as an unpaid volunteer historian, I accompanied 20 men and women of the U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment as they carefully tramped back to the front where their Marine forebears fought nearly a century ago. Later in the week, I will give them a guided tour of Pointe du Hoc and the other crucial beaches and airborne-drop zones of Normandy.

All the Marines on this trip received severe wounds in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. Three were wounded in both conflicts. For some veterans, intense firefights and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) took their arms and legs. Many carry scars that vividly arc across their bodies.

As we rode to the battlefield, they shared memories of fighting as intense as any that I had heard from the thousands of World War II soldiers and Marines I have interviewed over the years. Several of the Marines showed me pictures of their spines and legs that resembled erector sets.

Yet their spirit is unbroken and inspiring. Stoic and filled with pride, these veterans doubtlessly endured pain as they maneuvered through the battlefield on replacement limbs or stood for long periods of time. Yet I didn’t hear a single Marine complain. (continued on next page)



Belleau Wood battlefield



Aisne-Marne American Cemetery



Devil Dog Fountain

Back to the Front

(continued from page 2)

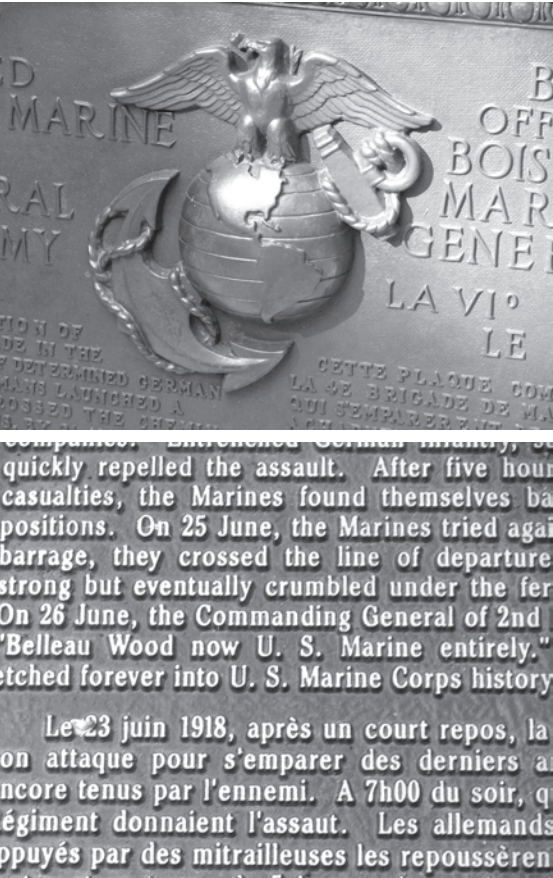
“I doubt most Americans have ever heard of Belleau,” remarked one young Marine while standing at a bronze plate memorializing the Marines the Germans dubbed “Teufelhunden,” or “devil dogs,” for their intrepid battle-field prowess.

He then went on to ask the group, “Do you think they will ever have any monuments in Iraq or Afghanistan?”

“No,” the group universally responded, as some leaned forward on their canes.

At Lucy-le-Bocage, one of the villages at the epicenter of the fighting at Belleau Wood, an elderly French woman came up to the Marines and said, “We do not forget what you have done for us in World War I and World War II. Vive les Américains.”

The Wounded Warriors’ trip to France was paid for by private donors. Colonel Willy Buhl, commanding officer of the 700-plus active-duty regiment, explained, “In time of sequestration, the American people refuse to diminish the care for the wounded and injured.” He added, “Every Marine knows the lore of the Corps. This trip is spiritual healing for this group, as they make a deep connection to their forebears and their war and the



Details from Belleau Wood

brothers they lost in Iraq and Afghani-stan.”

In fact, many of the Marines bore names of their fallen brothers in arms tattooed across their bodies. Several brought plaques to honor the fallen.

On Sunday, the 20 men and women of the regiment celebrated Memorial Day at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery located on the grounds of the Belleau Wood battlefield. There, the cost of war is very visible, as thousands of white crosses on manicured green plots mark the sacrifices of the generation of men who fought in the Great War. Since 1919, Americans and their French allies have made it one of Europe’s oldest and most hallowed grounds for the celebration of Memorial Day.

At the end of the ceremony, hundreds of people from the town and all over France and Europe went to the nearby chateau used by the German army as their headquarters during the battle. The natural spring that was their water source during the war now has a fountain topped by the head of a bulldog. In a longstanding tradition, the Marines drank from the Devil Dog Fountain. Around the fountain, men and women continued to shake the hands of the wounded Marines and to thank them.

“It felt good being here,” remarked Corporal Kevin Hoffman, who had names of some of his fallen comrades tattooed across his ribs along with his favorite motto, “Strength and Honor.”

As the Marines rode toward the Normandy beaches for the second part of the tour, Colonel Buhl summed up the experience in a single sentence: “These Marines are the living embodiment of the fallen and their sacrifices.”

— Patrick K. O’Donnell is a historian and the bestselling author of eight books. His most recent bestseller is Dog Company: The Boys of Pointe du Hoc – the Rangers Who Accomplished D-Day’s Toughest Mission and Led the Way Across Europe.







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**Life Members of the Association must still pay for their Newsletter subscription each year.**

**Ladies Auxiliary Report**

Hello again to all Wives, Descendants and Marines,

The countdown is on for the 2013 Quantico Reunion starting 14 August, about a month away as I write this. We have sent in our reservations for the activities and have called in our hotel reservations. I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. It is always fun and interesting to meet new people and listen to their stories.



In these days, when the ranks of the "Marines of Okinawa" and their wives are growing thin, we especially appreciate them and are really excited to welcome the next generation of children and grandchildren to join our ranks and keep the memory of their times and sacrifice alive. We also appreciate those who accompany the Marines to the reunions so they can reminisce with their buddies, and we want to make you feel welcome.

As you may have noticed, there is no Ladies Auxiliary Luncheon planned this year. We tried to figure out how to get a luncheon in the schedule, but things were just too tight. We will still have the Ladies Auxiliary meeting on Thursday evening, and since we are not having a luncheon, there will be no cost. I am hoping since there is no cost, we will see some new faces. All females are welcome – wives especially, since they are the ones who shared the most with those tough Marines of ours. But we want all ladies to join us, and this includes daughters, granddaughters and any other female who is attending the reunion. Since our meeting is in the evening, we have a desert planned for the ladies who attend. I also have some things planned that I think will be fun and help us to get to know each other better.

Please be sure to mark the registration form that you plan to attend the ladies meeting, so we will have enough desserts for all and not waste any by trying to guess and order too many.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Quantico.

~ Barbara McKnight  
Ladies Auxiliary President

**Chaplain's Report**



Looking forward to our meeting in Quantico. It looks like all is falling into place. Let's hope the weather holds out for us.

Barb and I attended the services for Harold Walters in Wooster, Ohio. It was nice seeing Alio and Angelina with Lisa and her sisters there.

Before the services started, I asked the Minister if I could say something about Harold. I was asked to speak first and then family members followed. He has some great grandchildren. I told them they were invited to the reunion and gave them the web site to get specific information

I talked about Harold and his long service to the Association and then picked a battle that involved Fox Company and "H" Company. It was about June 12 or 13, 1945 when Fox Company was in a tough fire fight and had many wounded. We (H Company) had our machine gun squad set up near the top of a slope. Fox Company would send their wounded past our gun position. When it began to get dark, we would challenge them, ask for the password and allow them to pass. As darkness fell, one of their Sergeants came past and said there were no more wounded. John Wells said to me, "Mac, I'll take the first watch; you get some sleep."

I did and fell fast asleep. Then a strange thing happened. A voice came to me as plain as my mother's and said, "Harry! Wake up, they are coming at you in an iron hat." I snapped up and said, "John! What's going on?" It was pitch black. No moon or stars. He said there were four more coming and they knew the password. The last bunch said they were the last of the wounded, and we didn't know if they were Nips or Marines. Just then a star shell from a ship lit up the whole area, and we could see the shine of their metal helmets through their netting. Not like ours. The next morning there were four dead Nips.

I then mentioned some scriptures and ended with the poem "Immortality." There was a nice lunch after, and we enjoyed Harold's relatives and friends.

I kept close contact with Joan Wilauer during the Oklahoma tornadoes and she made it OK and will be at the reunion along with Pam Bloustine.

~ Chaplain Harry McKnight

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Please feel free to pass along any articles about Sixth Division Marines that appear in your local newspaper or on the Web.



FIRST IN A SERIES:

# Searching for My Dad’s Buddies

By Bob McGowan

My Dad was a squad leader in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, H/3/29. All my life I heard about my Dad’s men who were killed on Okinawa, most of them on May 14, 1945 in one costly assault on a little hill off to the left flank of Sugar Loaf. Like most Marines, my Dad spoke of them by their last name only: Soper, Martin, Laney, Pallo and so forth. But when he spoke of PFC Judge, he would always say “Josephus Judge.” Kind of an unusual name for a hillbilly kid from parts unknown who never shaved and probably never wore shoes before he enlisted (my Dad’s opinion).

My Dad died in 1999, but I still felt a connection to these young Marines, one reason being that now I was the keeper of their legacy. Their Lieutenant, “Hank” Johnson, was killed almost immediately in the assault, and given all the casualties that were incurred at that time, I suspected that the families never received much in the way of a letter or anything about how these brave young men died.

After numerous searches on the internet, I learned that one Josephus Franklin Judge was buried in Floreffe Cemetery, Pine Grove, WV. I started calling local churches and was handed over to an “old timer” who just happened to have been a high school classmate of “Joe Judge.” This gentleman also served in the battle of Okinawa, in the Navy, and he told me that there were nine boys in the class of 1945, and eight of them fought in WWII. Two of them were killed, and a third was killed in the Korean War. Many of the boys, including Joe, dropped out early in their senior year as soon as they turned 17. Their mothers were allowed to accept their diplomas for them.

The “old timer” told me how to find Floreffe Cemetery, and after some trial and error I found a very remote location on top of a hill with the only access a narrow, steep, winding dirt road. There I found Joe’s grave along with his parents and siblings, five of whom had died in infancy. In an odd twist of fate, I saw that Joe’s father had died (in an auto accident) on the same day as Joe.

In an attempt to reach the family, I wrote a letter to a local American Legion that I spied along the way. About a year later, I received an e-mail from Joe’s niece. I drove down to Pine Grove to meet the family and to give them the 6<sup>th</sup> MARDIV brass grave marker that my Dad had bought for his own grave. The Association had sent one for Dad so I had an extra. His family only knew that Joe was killed on Okinawa, and they had heard that he had died of wounds on a hospital ship. I told them the whole story and showed them the names and the fates of all the Marines of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon.

Only a few of the Platoon reached the objective that day, most being cut down by machine gun fire from the forward slope of the hill they had just left or from the unprotected left flank. After reaching the hill, my Dad was hit by a burst from a Nambu which put two rounds thru his lung and right arm. He figured he was mortally wounded so he turned the squad over to his best buddy, Corporal Grant Soper. Soper was last seen taking the objective along with PFC Josephus Judge and his BAR. They never came back. I don’t know how long they lasted up there. I only know the Japanese who were counterattacking all day trying to get at the wounded Marines never made it past them.

(continued on next page)

# Veteran Tells Story of Three Buddies in Okinawa

By Jon Baker, Times-Reporter.com, Dover – New Philadelphia, Ohio, May 27, 2013

The three buddies met during advanced infantry training at the Marine Corps base at Camp Lejeune, NC, in the waning days of World War II. All three would participate in the invasion of Okinawa, the last major battle of the war. Only two of them would come home alive.

Harry McKnight was from Columbus, Ohio, Bob McTureous from Florida and Don Mahoney from Massachusetts.

“We were all high school athletes, and our bunks were close together,” recalled McKnight, 86, a retired teacher and coach in Columbus. His son, Dr. Tim McKnight, is a physician at Trinity Hospital Twin City in Dennison.

Harry McKnight spoke about his war service during a program today at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Philadelphia.

Each of the Marines thought the other two spoke English with an accent, McKnight said. They be-

came good friends, going through advanced training in California and then being shipped to Guam in preparation for the invasion of Japan. They were members of the 6th Marine Division.

In the spring of 1945, the men of the division received new orders. They were being sent to Okinawa as replacements to help wrest control of the island from the Japanese.

The Allied invasion began on April 1, and the battle proved to be the bloodiest in the Pacific Theater. The Japanese sustained more than 100,000 casualties, the Allies more than 65,000.

Tens of thousands of civilians also were killed, wounded or committed suicide. At least 30 U.S. warships were damaged or sunk by Japanese kamikaze attacks.

“We arrived in early May at night during one of the kamikaze attacks,” McKnight recalled. “The sky

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# Searching for My Dad’s Buddies

(continued from previous page)

Sometime later I got another letter from one of Joe’s high school classmates, Mr. Frank Watson, an Army paratrooper who was captured by the Germans at Anzio. We became good friends, and one day I helped Frank climb up the hill to visit Joe’s grave in a scene reminiscent from “Saving Private Ryan.” While we paid our respects, we noticed a fellow mowing the lawn there and tending all the graves. Frank and I thanked him and gave him a few bucks for gasoline for his mower. I know that’s what Dad would have done if he was there. Maybe he was.

Semper Fidelis,  
Bob McGowan  
USMC 1973-1976



Final resting place of PFC Josephus F. Judge



# Veteran Tells Story of Three Buddies in Okinawa

(continued from page 7)

was lit up like a Fourth of July grand finale with all the tracers heading up against the planes. We agreed we would be much better on land, digging a nice deep foxhole.” When they landed, the three friends were separated. Mahoney was assigned to G Company, and McKnight and McTureous to H Company.

Once they got into combat, they lost track of the days, which were an endless repetition of firing their weapons and then moving on, McKnight said.

On June 4, they made the last landing of the war on the Oroku Peninsula on the south end of the island.

The following day, Mahoney was hit in the chest three times by Japanese fire as his squad was moving out. “He later told me it was like getting hit hard in football,” McKnight said

Mahoney rolled into a ditch to avoid more bullets. A corpsman ran out to help him. The corpsman was killed instantly and fell on top of Mahoney. He passed out and woke up later on a hospital ship.

On June 7, McTureous and his comrades had just captured a hill on the peninsula. In the process, the unit suffered several casualties. As the stretcher-bearers went out to retrieve the wounded, they came under enemy machine gun fire.

Acting on his own initiative,

McTureous filled his shirt with hand grenades and charged the Japanese-occupied caves where the firing was coming from. He succeeded in drawing the enemy’s fire away from the stretcher-bearers and in silencing the Japanese machine guns with the grenades.

As he passed one cave, he was shot in the stomach. Unwilling to further endanger the lives of his comrades, McTureous crawled 200 yards to the American lines before asking for help.

He died four days later on a hospital ship.

For his gallantry, McTureous was awarded the nation’s highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor.

McKnight was the luckiest of the three friends. He survived the Okinawa battle without injury, though he had three close calls.

The battle ended on June 22, and McKnight returned to Guam in late July. There, he found Mahoney in a hospital. His friend had lost 40 pounds, and McKnight didn’t recognize him until Mahoney spoke to him.

Mahoney was in the hospital for eight months, losing a lung and several ribs because of his injuries.

Following the Japanese surrender, McKnight and his unit were



Harry McKnight

shipped to China, serving there 10 months. He returned to the United States on Aug. 23, 1946.

McKnight graduated from Ohio State University in 1951 with a degree in biology, health and athletics. He taught school and was a coach for 36 years, retiring in 1986. While he was at OSU, he joined the Air National Guard. He was called into active duty twice — in 1948 when the Soviets blockaded Berlin and in 1968 when the USS Pueblo, a Navy intelligence ship, was captured by the North Koreans.

He retired from the Air National Guard in 1973 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

His friend Don Mahoney now lives in Kennebunkport, Maine. They still keep in touch.

For McKnight, Memorial Day is an important holiday.

“There are not many of us guys left from World War II,” he said. “Every Memorial Day, I mentally go through the list of my friends who are no longer here.”

# Calvin O’Rourke Helps Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive

By Kelly Farrell, [naplesnews.com](http://naplesnews.com), August 14, 2011

With a generation of heroes nearing the end of their lives, a national movement hit Southwest Florida last year to “keep their spirit alive.”

Ret. Cpl. Calvin O’Rourke [22nd Mar-3-L], 86, sat at Crescent Beach in the sweltering Sunday afternoon heat with shrapnel still in his chest from being hit with mortar shots while serving in WWII. O’Rourke, who served in the Sixth Marine Division's 22nd Regiment, said he wishes he could serve in Afghanistan now, so nobody else would have to die.

“America should send its greatest. They should send us because when we get there, then they’ll just die laughing,” the Cape Coral resident said of foreign enemies. “They’ll die when they hear America’s sending its finest, and that we’re all old people. Then we won’t lose all our young people.”

That’s the spirit of the WWII veterans that was celebrated at the Naples Pier and on Fort Myers Beach and is planned nationally for this year.

Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive is a national nonprofit initiative to establish the second Sunday of August as Spirit of ’45 Day, the day that WWII ended. There were about 500 public events held across the country that weekend. Lois Bolin, chairwoman of Florida Spirit of ’45 and co-founder of Naples Backyard History, said the increased appreciation for these members of the “greatest generation” comes just before it’s too late.

“We’re losing them at 1000 (deaths) a day,” Bolin said. “The reality — boom — it’s hitting us. When things get bad, we all get reflective. Where the country is today, we need to draw upon their strength.”

At 102 years old, Rev. Frederick Nelson, walked onto the beach near Naples Pier, refusing to use his

walker. Nelson served with the Navy’s 118th Seabee Battalion.

Flyovers of WWII era planes by the Marco Island Civil Air Patrol marked the closing of the tributes at Naples Pier.

The Naples Concert Band played Taps at 7 p.m., as did bugle players nationwide.

A Lee County Sheriff’s Office helicopter swooped down low to bow to the U.S. flag waving from the top of a fire truck’s extended ladder at Fort Myers beach.

The tributes to the heroes and their spirit of strength through the Great Depression, WWII and the rebuilding of America are marked nationally using the famous photograph of a Times Square kiss between a WWII veteran and nurse, Edith Shain, on August 14, 1945.

Doris Pells, 89, came to Naples Pier to honor her husband, WWII veteran Harry Pells. However, Harry Pells wasn’t there. He died 11 years ago at age 78. Doris Pells was a hero of another sort — a true Rosie the Riveter — working in a plant building war materials, she said.

The events honored these women along with people who offered to sacrifice their lives in active battle.





# Marines Return to Tsingtao with Charlie Two Shoes

by W. Don Sexton (L-3-4 in Tsingtao in 1946-47)

## REVISITING TSINGTAO IN 2012

In October of 2012, the College of The Ozarks planned a trip to China. We were gone nine days. Five former Marines and 20 students from the college were on the trip. It was a history lesson for the students — two students were assigned to each Marine. The Marine veterans were involved in making a documentary. “Charlie Two Shoes” was with us, and the movie will be based on his life with the Marines. [Editor’s note: Charlie was an 11 year old boy in Tsingtao — now called Qingdao — who was adopted by the Marines. They called him Charlie Two Shoes because they could not pronounce his real name.] Stratton Leopold Productions is in charge of the filming. Their film crew and a script writer was also on the trip.

It was good to visit Tsingtao again. After 65 years, there was such a contrast between now and then. I just could not believe what I was seeing: all the high-rise buildings, the infrastructure, and the roads.

We were in Tsingtao five days and Beijing three days. In Tsingtao, we went to our barracks in the city. We saw our squad rooms and found our old mess hall. The parade ground had changed a lot. The Base Hospital and the Brig were gone. The L-3-4 and 1st Marine barracks were still there. We went out to the Tsangkou air base, which is now a Chinese Air Force Training Academy. The



Charlie Two Shoes and Marines in Tsingtao, 2013

church and beach were still beautiful. We visited the school Charlie had attended. He and two schoolmates, who were also on the trip, had a good reunion. Charlie’s village has not changed. It is still in poverty. This was Charlie’s first visit back since he left China on May 9, 1983.

The Air Base was under tight security. The security guard told us to get out. We couldn’t understand him. When Charlie realized what was going on, he told us to move out quick. They could arrest us and take our cameras and the bus.

It was good to spend some time in Beijing. We got to visit the Great Wall of China and the Big Square. There were so many historical places and leaders of the past in the museum. Their culture of art was also displayed.

We took a non-stop flight, about 13 hours each way. We stayed in 4-star hotels and had meals in three restaurants each day, ten different courses in each meal. It was a very rewarding and enjoyable trip.

## REMEMBERING TSINGTAO IN 1946-47

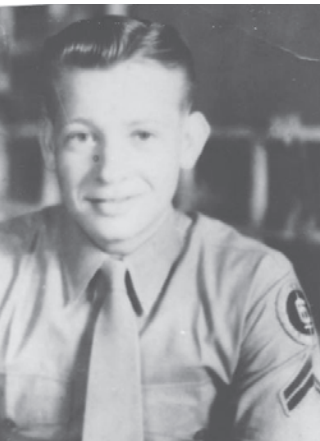
There is so much history about the North China Marines. The official count has ten Marines killed in action, thirty wounded in action, and twenty fighter planes shot down by the Communists. One of the Marines in L-3-4 was killed, and two were taken prisoner. They went outside the perimeter, which was surrounded by the Communists. They were driving a Jeep and were going on a hunting trip. They were ambushed and the Jeep was burned. It took a long time to get the two out, and a lot of ransom was paid. A friend of mine read an article which stated they had found thirty Marine graves in North China.

The Communists were engaging more and more against our troops. They were blowing up our trains, shooting at our train guards, trying to steal our ammunition supplies, and stealing from our fuel dumps. One night, on guard duty, I was one man on a fuel dump post. There should have been three men on that post, but *(continued on next page)*

# Marines Return to Tsingtao with Charlie Two Shoes

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the Marines were down-sizing so fast at that time, they were short of troops. The black market was stealing everything that wasn’t tied down. When I



Don Sexton in China, 1947

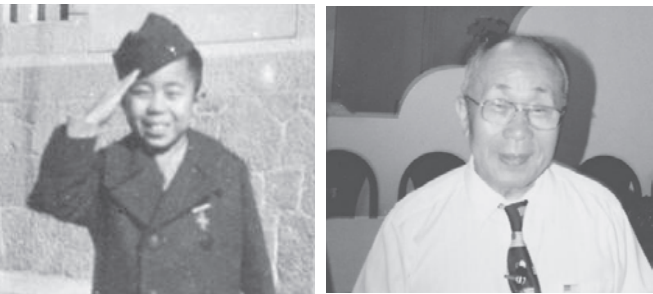
There is much history about my duty in China, but I don’t remember a lot of it. Many of the China Marines had personal experiences, but didn’t live to tell about them.

One early morning, our Platoon leader came into our squad room and told us we had a plane down 200 miles away. Lt. McNeely said the plane was down in a Communist village. The pilot phoned about where he was, then his phone went out. Lt. said this was our day to be on 24-hour alert and to fall out in full combat gear and get three bandoleers of ammunition. Lt. said there were three DC-4 planes on the air strip waiting for us to depart. We took off and flew over the communist and nationalist fighting. We located the plane, landed and surrounded the area where the plane was. The pilot was okay. His plane had to make an emergency landing and ended up in a grave yard. The wheels were marred up in a grave. The pilot flew back with us and the plane was retrieved before the communists got it.

Two of the Marines in my squad and I had just gotten dressed to go on liberty. We went out the front gate to get a rickshaw to take us into town to a restaurant. We had just gotten paid. Most of the fellows had the same idea on their minds so there were no rickshaws available. While we were wait-

ing, this Chinese man in an old beat up car came by and said in his broken English that he would take us any place we wanted to go. I got in the front seat, and my buddies got in the back. As we rode along, I could not see anything familiar. I had not been to town this way. I tried to communicate with the driver, but he ignored me. Suddenly, he turned into a dead-end street. I knew something was not right. About that time, eight Chinese men began charging the car. I made a split second decision to run. Our policy on the base was that we could not carry a weapon on liberty. I believe the Chinese men had some kind of weapon or they would not have attacked us. As Marines, we hated to run, but I believe I made the right decision. We could have been hurt, or maybe killed. The Provost Marshall had told the Marines to never go on liberty alone. Some of the Marines had been attacked and robbed.

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Tsui Chi Hsui aka Charlie Two Shoes, then and now

## POST SCRIPT

Charlie Two Shoes, who was made an honorary Marine in 2002, gave the commencement address at The College of the Ozarks in Missouri on May 12, 2013.

The trip that Don and Charlie took to Tsingtao was sponsored by the College. It is part of a program that pairs students with American veterans and takes them back to their battlefields or military stations.



Lineal Descendent Working on Documentary About the Invasion of Okinawa; Plans to Attend Reunion in Quantico

A few years ago, Bob Zimmerman was routing through a trunk holding mementos from his late father's service in the Marine Corps during World War II. At the very bottom of the trunk, Bob found a box of letters his father had written to his mother and father during the war. The letters begin a few days before the invasion of Okinawa and end when he was in China. The letters paint an interesting view of the war from the point of view of a young Marine from Ohio. That young man was Al Zimmerman, who served in the Sixth Marine Division Reconnaissance Company. He passed away in 1998.

Al's son, Bob, is a photographer, filmmaker and owner of R.A.Z. Films, an independent film production company. His father's letters inspired Bob to start a documentary about the invasion of Okinawa. Unfortunately, health issues and another film delayed the project. Now Bob is ready to resume work on the film, and he is coming to the reunion in Quantico. He is hoping to meet some of the men who served with his father and hear their stories. He plans to bring some of the letters with him, and says one of them is written on Japanese paper his father found in a cave.

While the film will be based on Al Zimmerman's letters, Bob would like to have others help tell the story. He says it's important to include the thoughts and observations of Marines who were there. "They all deserve to have this

story told," he says.

Bob would like to do some on-camera interviews with Sixth Division Marines at the reunion (time permitting) or make plans to do them after the reunion. Bob lives near Champaign, IL and is willing to personally visit anyone who lives within reasonable driving distance. Anyone who is interested should call Bob at (217) 649-3590 or e-mail him at [razfilms@live.com](mailto:razfilms@live.com).

Bob says his father was very proud to be a Marine and would be pleased to know he is attending the reunion.

Take a look at the trailer Bob made for his film on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJU18CwWdPA>



Al Zimmerman during the war, above and left

Reunion Update

With hopes that this newsletter reaches you before the reunion in August, we are reprinting the Schedule of Events and Hotel information on the following two pages.

If you have any questions about the reunion, please contact Sharon Woodhouse at (503) 642-2429.

Hope to see you there!

Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day	Time	Event	Cost Per Person
Wednesday August 14	10:00 am – 7:00 pm	Registration Desk	free
	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 August 15	7:30 am – 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room <i>coffee, tea, muffins, and bagels</i>	free
	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>	
Friday August 16	7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	free
	7:30 am – 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room <i>coffee, tea, muffins, and bagels</i>	free
	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 August 17	7:30 am – 9:30 am	Continental Breakfast, Hospitality Room <i>coffee, tea, muffins, and bagels</i>	free
	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 August 18	11:00 am	Check out 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

HOLIDAY INN QUANTICO CENTER ~ 3901 Fettler 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>

## 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 Fettler 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](http://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.

Striking Sixth

# Jesse Thomas Honored at Parkesburg, PA Ceremony

## LAST SURVIVOR OF THE MARINES THAT RAISED THE FLAG ON OKINAWA

*This is an abbreviated version of an article by Chris Barber that ran in the Daily Local News on May 20, 2013*

PARKEsburg — With a parade and get-together on Sunday afternoon, the community paid tribute to members of the military who gave their lives for America.

The event was held a week before the traditional Memorial Day weekend because organizers felt that many people leave town at the end of May and there would be more spectators at mid-month.

The speaker at the service at the borough firehouse was Edward Fisher, who served in the U.S. Army for 27 years and now represents LEEK Hunting and Mountains Pre-

serve, a nonprofit organization that helps wounded service men and women.

He praised the spectators from Parkesburg and other small towns, saying that places like theirs is where patriotism lives. “You live and breathe the Constitution,” he said.

He said he has been to many places in the world and has seen many embassies where people form long lines for blocks to get visas to come to America. “There’s nobody in line at the Egyptian or Russian embassies,” he said.

Fisher also praised veterans of all American wars.



Jesse Thomas with picture of flag raising

memorial Day. He urged his audience to get involved in organizations that help wounded warriors, because there are many of them around still fighting their battles to recover.

**Editors’ Note:** Jesse Thomas [G-2-22] called to say he is coming to the reunion. He says he will bring the flag in the picture with him, along with another flag from a photo taken at the surrender of Okinawa.



The original flag raising

Summer 2013

He gave special recognition to World War II veteran Jesse Thomas of Parkesburg, who sat behind him on the stage. Thomas is the sole surviving member of the team that raised the flag on Okinawa on June 22, 1945, when Americans captured the island during World War II.

He said that for veterans who were injured and their families, everyday is Me-



Three Generations of Marines

Thanks so much for offering to include my Dad's obituary in the August newsletter [Vincent Norako, Sr., 29th Mar-3, see page 22]. Since he passed in August of 2012, that will be a good closure to have for my Mom.

I am also including a picture of the three Vincent Norako Marines at my son's commissioning in 2009. My Dad took great delight in observing that I had to buy a new set of dress blue/whites for the occasion, whereas he still fit in his original uniform. :)

My son just got orders to the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet in Japan, and my Navy JAG lawyer daughter is getting married in August (to a Navy officer, as well, no less) and is being shipped to Gitmo sometime early next year. My oldest daughter is currently teaching at a small university in the San Francisco area, but today she's in Kalamazoo

Michigan, next week in Rochester, New York, and then Oslo, Norway to present a paper, before she returns to San Francisco. I'm obviously at a point in life where I don't even know which continent my children are on, at any given moment.

2nd e-mail from July 14:

Concerning my Dad's internment at Arlington: They finally contacted me and we've set 11:00 on 31 July for the ceremony. It will be full military honors with a caisson, caparisoned horse, band, bugler, escort, and firing detail. We're having a short reception up at the Fort Meyer Officer's Club. My Parents were married at the Fort Meyer Chapel on October 6, 1945, right after my Dad was discharged at the end of the war. He had just come back from Okinawa for OCS when the War ended and he got swept up in the massive reductions in force, that give little consideration to who wanted to stay

in or get out. It just depended on which side of the auditorium you were on when you were told you had been discharged. My Dad came back, two years later in 1947 and picked up a commission in the Reserves, through a special program for veterans. This was just in time so he got called back on active duty for a year, and was sent to Korea. After the Korean War he continued as a reservist, retiring as a full Colonel in 1978. I thought Arlington and Fort Meyer would be a fitting completion of the full circle he made, starting in 1945.

Semper Fi!  
Vince Norako, Jr.  
LtCol USMC Ret.  
vwnfam1@verizon.net

★

Book About Sixth Division Marine Available on Amazon

My Dad's USMC story — from San Diego, to Okinawa, to Tsingtao, to back home in Indiana — is told from letters and photos in his sea bag. He died in 1978, at the age of 53. He was a captain on the Indianapolis Fire Department. I am a life time associate member of the 6th Marine Division Association.

Best wishes,  
Kevin Murray  
Kevin.Murray@indy.gov

Editor's Note: Kevin is referring to a book he published last year. It is titled *Sgt. A.F. "Kelly" Murray USMC, A Hoosier Hibernian in the Great Pacific War* and is available in hardback and Kindle through Amazon.com.



The 3 Vincent Norako Marines at the youngest Norako's commissioning, 2009

Looking for Information About Cpl. John Harold Williams

Dear Mr. Singleton,

The surviving family of Cpl. John Harold Williams is trying to find any fellow Marines who may have known him and could share any memories about him including the circumstances regarding his death.

John went by his middle name Harold. He was from Portland Oregon. His serial # was 338756. He served as a carpenter and rifleman in Company B, 1st Bn, 4th Marines, 6th Mar Div.

He was K.I.A. on June 11, 1945, by GSW ( perhaps a sniper) somewhere between Hill 58 and the town of Tomigusuku , south of Naha on the Oroku Peninsula.

He was temporarily laid to rest in Okinawa, and his final resting place is at the Punchbowl on Oahu.

His closet buddy was Cpl. Jimmy Garver, now deceased. Cpl Garver was probably not in the same Marine Company as Harold.

If anyone can relay information about our Uncle Harold including his final days, our family would be most appreciative.

Thank you and Semper fidelis,  
Nancy Boutin, MD (niece)  
nancyboutin@comcast.net  
16338 White Oaks Drive  
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035  
503-539-7986

★

Uncommon Valor on the Oroku Peninsula

We were in the far North when word came that the army was falling back and needed help at once. We boarded the tanks and headed south. Some one hundred yards from the loaf, Sgt. Smith yelled, "Bring your rifles and ammo only and follow me." We were loaded onto buffalos L.T.V. May 14 was the first assault on the loaf. J.D. Saunders, Henderson, the first fire team and myself went to the top. Word came that the all-American captain of the Notre Dame football team had been killed. We dug in between dead bodies covered with maggots and blowflies — what a night. Japs were yelling and throwing grenades; mortar shells were flying everywhere. J.D.'s BAR stick gone by shrapnel. After three days, we were relieved by the fourth Marines, taken behind the hill, and given showers, haircuts and new dungarees. Then we went on to make a landing on the

Oroku Peninsula near Naha. I think it was the last amphibian landing of World War II. Chief Corpsman Lathan Hutchins and I thought that it was as bad a battle as Sugar Loaf, which is my understanding was one of the worst battles in history.

We won our glory May 12-19, 1945 and received the presidential citation with a star.

In a week of frontal assaults, our outfit was beaten back many times before the hill was taken. The 29th held the hill; the Marines hold it still.

Only those who were there would understand!!!

Uncommon valor was a common virtue.

Monte Shawver  
1st Rifle Platoon, Dog Co.  
2nd Bn. 29th Reg.  
305 Lakeshore Drive  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
(269) 964-4011

★



Monte Shawver and 1st Rifle Platoon, taken on the canal, 1945



Feedback on the May Newsletter

I have just read the Spring 2013 issue of the newsletter and want to say how impressed I was with the three stories about the Division around Sugar Loaf Hill. I am now past 90 years old, but still recall the experience described in the first paragraph of “The Vortex.” Actually, I was not on Sugar Loaf that night, but on another ridge called the Horse Shoe directly across a valley from Sugar Loaf. I was in communications (CP) and listened to some of the radio efforts to provide relief to the Marines isolated on Sugar Loaf. I knew at the time that the losses were heavy, but I did not know about the lone survivor and his escape to medical aide.

Regarding “Okinawa Hero Earns Our Respect,” specifically the portion that tells about a football game on Guadalcanal, I can say that I was a spectator at the game between the 4th and 29th Marines. In fact, I had played in some of the beginning games when they were started several months earlier. As these games gained attention, my slender 6 feet, 145 pound frame was not sufficient, and it was a good thing. The game mentioned in the article was a very brutal exhibition, especially under the title “touch football.” No AFL championship game had near the effort exerted by these two groups. The article doesn’t say, but as best I remember, I do not think there

were any serious injuries, but I suspect there was a lot of pain for the participants.

The third story, “Patriotism Then and Now” points out the national character that has emerged over the years after 1945. This may not be a common comment, but I disagree about the inclusion of McArthur in the “cream” group. It is only an unsupported opinion, but I would wager that if you questioned the Marines that survived Tarawa and Saipan, and even the Marines that were in Japan at the end of the war, you would find some disagreement. Nevertheless, it was an article that I am glad was published. Let us hope that the drift in patriotism, service, and loyalty will improve. After all, it is these traits that brought the United States from a wilderness to the greatest nation in World History.

Sincerely,  
Merle R. Likins  
1223 Summit Avenue  
Louisville, KY 40204  
(502) 451-7735

★

**Glynn Fairburn Update**

Thanks for the renewal notice (we have been waiting for one). Glynn devours the Leatherneck and the Sixth Newsletter. For all these years he has had no news of the Sixth Division nor any reunions. His health now does not let him travel too far for any reason.

Glynn is anxious to locate one of his buddies who served in boot camp and Camp Pendleton. Then to the Pacific and at Okinawa. The last time he saw him was in Japan (occupation). He was in the brig!! Does the Assn. have a list of the remaining (living) Sixth Marine Division members?

Last year I ordered from Jostens the Sixth Marine Division 10k gold ring with ruby stone – IT IS BEAUTIFUL. It was a surprise to Glynn, of course, and he wears it all day and night! Even before his LSU ring! Thanks again for contacting Glynn. I supported him and went through the Korean deal with him serving as an inactive Marine Reservist called to duty.

Semper Fi,  
Eloise and Glynn Fairburn  
1281 Brownswitch Road,  
Slidell, LA 70461-1630  
(985) 643-1630

P.S. Years ago we were in the Quantico, VA area for our granddaughter’s high school graduation. Made a short trip to the Marine Museum.

[Note from Membership Manager: Unfortunately I know of no one or organization with a list of living members of the Sixth Marine Division. We do not even have an accurate list of Association members. It is so important that family members notify us.]

★

Hanging High on the Wall at the Entrance to the National Museum of the Marine Corps

I served in the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade with the 3rd Battalion Headquarters Co., 22nd Marine Regiment and was wounded twice in Eniwetok battles. The picture of me climbing back on board ship is hanging high on the wall as you enter the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico. My Marine buddy, Taisto Laiho, PFC, 22nd Marines, 3rd Battalion Headquarters Company, 1st Provisional Brigade at Eniwetok Atoll is in the foreground helping me back on board the ship after one of the battles of Eniwetok.

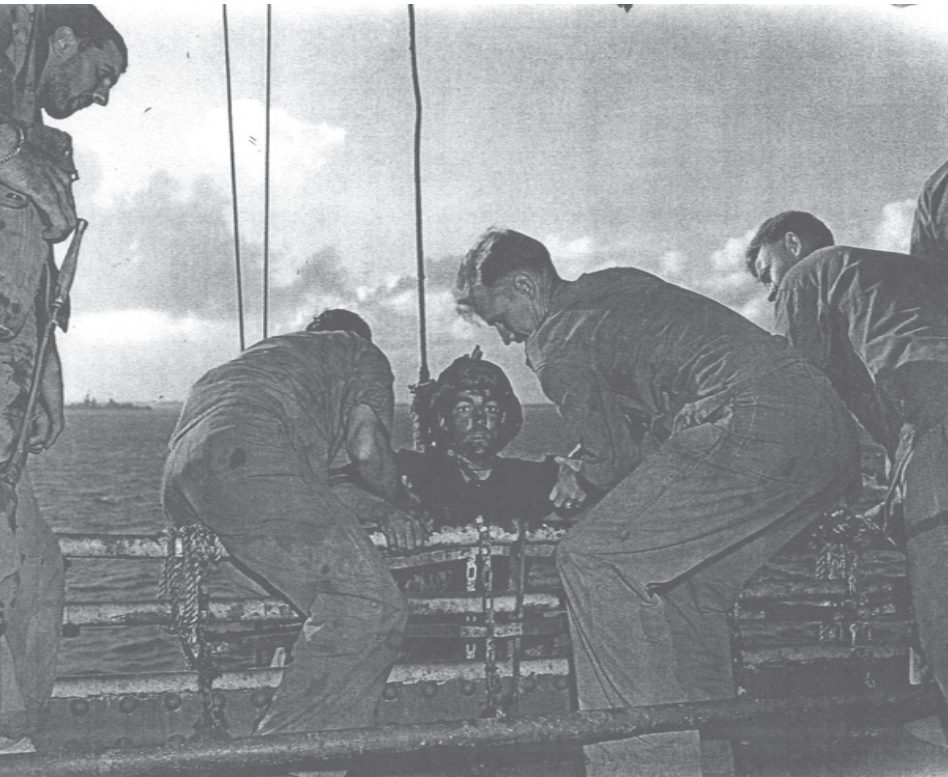
Taisto died on February 26, 1994 and is buried in Nevada. He

should be recognized as a Sixth Division, 22nd Marine. I traced him down and only recently discovered that he died in 1994.

My name is not identified on the picture in Quantico, but it is identified in a photography storage



Close up of Alvin Leisey, above, from picture, below, that hangs in the National Museum of the Marine Corps



area in College Park, MD. I am enclosing copies of my pictures for your use in trying to have both Taisto Laiho and my picture identified as 22nd Marines.

Thank you,  
Alvin L. Leisey, Jr.  
8 Franklin Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-3119  
(717) 361-5119

★

**Remembering a Proud Marine: Charles F. Beatty, Jr.**

Dear Flo,

Thank you so very, very much for the copy of the Striking Sixth Newsletter, Winter 2012, with my dear husband, Charles F. Beatty, Jr. heading the TAPS column. I cannot tell you how much it means to me – and will mean to the family. Of the five members of his company and battalion to survive that Easter Sunday so many years ago – he lived a wonderful 87 years and was always a proud Marine. I am enclosing a small check to help with postage for others like myself – and hope in doing so I am not complicating things for you!

God bless and thanks again,  
Winifred Beatty  
335 Nichols Ave  
Wilmington, DE 19803-2590

★



Alden and Eunice Fruin Update

Dear Joe,

Enclosed is \$20 for dues and a Striking Sixth subscription for 2013. My Dad (Cpl. Alden Fruin) went home to be with the Lord in 1996 ... and a month later my mom (Eunice Fruin) became ill. Mom and I cared for my Dad for many years, and after he passed, I became Mom’s sole caregiver. Mom (and Dad prior to his death...last 8 months VA Nursing Home) lived beside us and we had a baby monitor in between our places (since 1994). Mom will be 95 in July and Dad would be 99 this month. Sorry this payment is late. God bless America, our Soldiers and Veterans and their families.

Semper Fi,  
Susan Brovont  
11864 Jones Hwy  
Bellevue, MI 49021-9647

★  
Memory Problems!

Don’t remember if I paid this or not and am too lazy to look it up. If I have paid – use it for next year.

Thanks for all you do!!!

Mary Lou Thach  
905 E Kirkwood  
Aurora, MO 65605

[Note from Membership Manager: I love a good sense of humor!!]

★

Vince Mathews Hospitalized

Vince asked that I write a quick update. He has been hospitalized for pneumonia. Soon to be released to TCU. Vince and Toni will be moving to Assisted Living April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Vince and Toni Mathews new address:  
3200 Lake Johanna Blvd, #331  
Arden Hills, MN 55112  
(651) 697-2325

★  
Marvin Glessing Update

Dear friends of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division,

Marvin and I (his wife, Dolores) would enjoy going to 6<sup>th</sup> Reunions – we only had a few years. Marv is suffering from Alzheimer's the past years and will be leaving his home soon to live at the VA. I am sad so I want to send his dues, but please you need not send the magazine as his reading is not good any longer. Thank you – you all have a wonderful time.

Marvin and Delores “Dee” Glessing  
220 Orchard Ct  
Howard Lake, MN 55349

★  
Thank You, Flo!

Hello Flo,

It was nice to introduce myself to you on Friday. Jack always had nice thoughts of you and John. Especially you and all the time

you give to the 6<sup>th</sup>. Sending you a check for the “Striking 6<sup>th</sup>” magazine plus some extra to do as you please. Maybe someone needs a free renewal. Your choice.

The Rangers beat the Angels yesterday. Hope my Angels win today. But I hope the Rangers go to the BIG playoff again this year and win it. Thank you for all you do.

Always,  
Jayne Alice Hoag  
12341 Rebecca Lane  
Santa Ana, CA 92705-3218

P.S. Just found out yesterday that Joe Singleton is a Texan also. I may live in California but Texas still holds my heart.

★  
Getting Up to Date

Thanks for keeping me afloat with the newsletter. I have been fighting a battle with the old cancer beast for two and a half years and have fallen behind on several matters. I am sending a check ....hoping this will bring me up to date. If not please let me know, and I will send a few more pesos to put me in good standing with the newsletter. Thanks for the reminder.

Semper Fi,  
Roy Spedden  
4076 Winding Lane  
Rocklin, CA 95677-2727

★

Tribute to Fallen Uncle,  
Robert H. Ascher

Enclosed is a check to cover my subscription to the Striking Sixth Newsletter. I am a life member and did not know if I needed to subscribe annually to the newsletter? If I do I will continue to subscribe. If not keep the money as a donation to the organization.

I joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division Assoc. in tribute to my uncle PFC Robert H. Ascher, USMC who was KIA on 20 June 1945, and I am willing to make yearly contributions to the organization. I have an understanding of service to one’s country, being a combat veteran of Vietnam.

Cdr David C. Ascher  
200 Mooniefield Drive  
Smithfield, VA 23430-1606

P.S. I plan to attend the reunion at Quantico with my family.

[Note from Membership Manager: Please see my Message on page 24-25.]

★  
Memories of Japan

Thank you for the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division newsletter on the reunion in Quantico. I believe I’m a life member in the 1<sup>st</sup> Raider Bn and also the all Raider Assoc. Also, the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Assoc. We will be in Quantico next week for the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Raider Reunion . Looking forward to being there. Enclosed is a check to cover whatever to

the Sixth Marine Division Assoc. By the Grace of God I made it through the 6<sup>th</sup> Division with 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment, including the second landing to Japan. Then made the first wave landing to Japan at the surrender of the Japanese. Landed at Yokosuka Japan air base. It was a funny feeling after just going through Okinawa. Then I fired up a Jap boat and parked it by the Battleship Missouri and saw the surrender to MacArthur.

God bless you all for what you are doing.

Charles Pulford  
PO Box 27  
Noble, OK 73068

★  
Sixty-Seven Years Together

Hello Flo:

Well here I am again being late on Jim’s dues and Newsletter Subscription. I tell him when I should mail your dues to the 6<sup>th</sup>, and the answer is always ok. Then we get this letter today about the reunion in Virginia. I said when is your dues due? January. Well here it is April 4<sup>th</sup>, the day he was discharged from the Marines (1946). But he is still alive and kicking at the age of 87. Of course he has slowed down over the years. April 26, 2013 we will be married 67 years; no we didn’t wait long. I waited for him to come home. I was

never in doubt that he was not coming back. Marines are fighters all the time they are in service and after they leave the Corp.

Thanks for listening. From a Marine’s Wife that still loves him as much as I did when he left for the Corp. and when he returned and we were married.

Sincerely,  
Virginia F. White  
95 Harwood Ave.  
Merritt Island, FL 32953

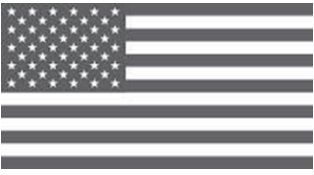
★  
1946 Train Wreck in PA

*This is really a Phone Call, not Mail Call, but close enough....*

Anthony “Tony” DiSiena called to say he would like to hear from other Marines who were on a train that derailed about ten miles east of Harrisburg, PA on May 28, 1946. Tony was returning to New York from the war, along with other Marines, and was washing his hands at the time of the accident. He lost consciousness and never made it back to his seat to retrieve his bag. He thinks he probably suffered a concussion and consequently does not remember much after the crash. Of course he told the doctors he was fine so they would let him go home. He’d love to hear from anyone who could provide more information.

Anthony “Tony” DiSiena  
(732) 534-4948





# 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.

BURKE, James F.	6 <sup>th</sup> Service Bn	06/05/2013
COOPER, Chester C.	4 <sup>th</sup> Marines	05/25/2013
GALASPY, Donald	6 <sup>th</sup> Marine-HQ-G3	04/14/2013
HULEK, William	29th Mar-2-F	
MOORE, Glenn F.	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-2-HQ	05/08/2013
NEWITT, James W.	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-3-I	03/00/2003
PITMAN, Robert E.	9th Amphib-B-H&S	04/00/2012
PITMAN, Marian	Widow of Robert E. Pitman	11/00/2012

## Vincent Norako, Sr.

Colonel Vincent W. Norako, Sr. USMCR (Ret.), passed away in Chapel Hill, NC, on August 22, 2012, at his home. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Dorothy R. Norako, and their son, Lt Col Vincent W. Norako, Jr., USMC (Ret.). Other survivors include daughter-in-law Karen Y. Norako, grandchildren Dr. Leila Kathleen Ellis and her husband, Robert Ellis, LT Mary Jennifer Norako, USN (JAG Corps), and 1stLT Vincent Roland Norako, USMC.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, on May 2, 1921, he was the son of John and Josephine Norako. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 and retired from the Reserves in 1978. He served most notably with the 6th Marine Division during the campaign on Okinawa. He was discharged at the end of the War in 1945 and married Dorothy Roland, whose parents, during the War, had already adopted then Cpl. Norako and half a dozen Marines into their family for weekends and

Sunday dinners. In 1947 he was commissioned in the Marine Corps Reserve as an officer, and promptly got recalled to active duty in 1951 for service in the Korean War. Following release from active duty, he continued to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve until his retirement as a full Colonel in 1978. In 1971 he was able to commission his son as a Marine Officer, returning 26 years later to read his son's retirement order. In 2009, he returned again to help his son commission his grandson into the Marine Corps, as well. Using his GI Bill, he had received his degree in electrical engineering from Pratt Institute and worked in that field for decades, most notably at the forefront of home fire protection.

He has worshipped at the Newman Catholic Student Center for the past 12 years and was a member of the Senior Kiwanis Club in Chapel Hill. Over the course of his life, he has been involved in the Boy Scouts of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps

League, Marine Officers Association, and the Military Officers Association of America.

A funeral Mass was held in Chapel Hill, following his death, but his burial at Arlington National Cemetery is still awaiting scheduling sometime during 2013. *[see picture and update from his son, Vince, on page 16]*

## Robert E. Pitman

On behalf of my Dad, Robert E. Pitman, USMC, I am in receipt of your newsletter for the reunion for the 6th Marine Division Association. Unfortunately, my dad passed away last April, and my mother passed away in November.

My Dad loved the Marines, and talked about them up to the time he passed away. My most treasured remembrances are the Marine items he kept throughout his life. Please mention him one more time at the Reunion.

Thank You  
David R. Pitman

# Glenn Moore

## OBITUARY

Glenn F. Moore, 89, passed away peacefully Wednesday, May 8, 2013. A celebration of his life was held June 16 at the First Reformed Church of Lincoln Park, NJ.

He was an 81-mm mortar man with the Sixth Marine Division in Okinawa and married his high school sweetheart, Claire Van Dyne in 1948. Glenn was a beloved teacher in Boonton public schools for 32 years and coached basketball, track & field, tennis, football, and cross-country. He was Chairman of the annual FUNd Run for the Pequannock Valley Mental Health Center, which dedicated its Child Play Therapy Center to him. He taught Sunday School for 48 years at the First Reformed Church. Glenn was a founding member of the local CROP Walk, an active member of the Boonton High School Alumni Association and was inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife; son, Dan (Nan); son, Doug (Jane); daughter, Jeanne; 8 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.



## EXCERPT FROM CLAIRE MOORE'S LETTER TO SUBSCRIBERS OF MARINE FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that we inform you of Glenn's passing on May 8, 2013. He died peacefully after a two-month battle which started with the need for a double bypass in March. After a total of four procedures/surgeries, he was just not strong enough to turn the corner. His motto remained strong throughout his ordeal...*Semper Fi*. He battled with courage and bravery. We are eternally grateful to have had him for 89 1/2 years.

In addition, we thank you all for your support of the Marine Family Newsletter. It has been such an integral part of Glenn's life over the past sixteen years. Glenn could not have done this by himself. It really was a "Neighborhood Publishing Company!" He always gave credit to all his supporters for their talent, time and dedication to his fellow veterans and their families. They told us that they did it to show their support and appreciation of veterans.

The mailing costs were paid for by you, his fellow servicemen, and supportive friends. Your kindness was so appreciated by us all. The monies left after the last issue was mailed were donated as follows: \$300 to the Striking Sixth, \$300 to the Marine Corps Scholarship, and \$469 to the Wounded Warriors.

Please know that he loved you all dearly and kept you close in his prayers. The Marine Family Newsletter has been a wonderful experience for us. Thank you all and may God bless you and your families.

## NOTE FROM VINCE NORAKO, JR.

I just got back from Lincoln Park, NJ. A friend of my Dad's from the 6<sup>th</sup> MarDiv just passed away: Glenn Moore. He was at Sugar Loaf on Okinawa, and has consulted on a number of books on the Okinawa campaign. He also produced the Marine Family Newsletter until January of this year. After my Dad's death last summer, I managed to see Glenn and another WWII Marine buddy up in Waterbury, Conn. last December. It was fortunate that I made the trip when I did, because Glenn passed away four months later. There were at least 300 people at the memorial service for him, including former students, fellow teachers and coaches, Marines, and others that Glenn impacted during his Marine Corps service and his career teaching and coaching in Lincoln Park. One fellow even flew in from Las Vegas for the service, and a Marine Sergeant Major from MAG-40 made a presentation on behalf of the Wounded Warrior Battalion, which Glenn had supported with some of the remaining funds when he shut down his newsletter. He was quite an individual, and I was privileged to know him all of my life.



From the Editor

This newsletter is going to print a little bit early in hopes that it reaches you before the reunion in August. Whether or not we are successful depends on the US post office. We mail the newsletters using the cheapest postage rate available, which means that delivery is subject to the whims of your local post office.



You will find the hotel information and schedule of events for the upcoming reunion on pages 13-14, in case you have misplaced

the May newsletter. We are hoping for a good turnout, and I look forward to seeing everyone.

This edition includes the first in a series written by my husband, Bob, about his quest to find some of the men his father served with after his father's death in 1999. I hope you find these stories as interesting and touching as I do.

You will also find stories written by or about Sixth Division Marines. Thanks so much to those who sent them. I hope more of you will contact me with your stories and recollections. Also, if you see something in the newspaper or on the Web that you find interesting, please pass it along. I'd love to hear from you.

~ Carroll McGowan  
chm1423@aol.com  
(412) 341-9219

Message from the Membership Manager

As you all know, the Sixth Marine Division Association sent every member on the roster, paid or not, a letter announcing the 2013 Reunion in Quantico, VA. Also included in the letter was a reminder that only those who had paid for their 2013 subscription to the *Striking Sixth* would receive the newsletter. I really was not prepared for the reactions of so many of our membership to that letter. I received phone calls from members who wanted to be sure they were paid for 2013 newsletters, and so very many checks from those who knew they had not paid.

If you are not sure what year you are paid through, please check your address on the back to the newsletter. The line just above your name shows: first your ID number with the Association, then your status (unit in the Sixth Marine Division, honorary, associate, or associate LD), then the year your DUES are paid through, and finally the year your SUBSCRIPTION to the newsletter is paid through.

When indicating what your check is for, please write "subscription," "newsletter," or "Striking Sixth" and not just "dues" as it can cause confusion if you are an annual member. And you can pay ahead as many years as you want.

If you still are not sure or have a question, please feel free to call me. I enjoyed every note and phone call I received and feel like I got to know some of

you special people.

The most common comment that I heard was "...but I am a Life member." In 2002 the Board of Directors voted that ALL members must pay \$10 per year for their newsletter because the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter had become so expensive. "ALL" included Life Members and Officers of the Association. This information has been published in the newsletter almost every year since.

Since the Reunion letter was sent to every member on the roster, I am no longer going to publish the names of members who the USPS has sent to me an "undeliverable address" message. I have published names "A through G" in past newsletters and have not received information on a single member. And I received but a few letters returned by the USPS from this recent mailing.

I am not at all comfortable with the Taps list in this newsletter. I just know there are deceased members out there who are not getting their proper recognition because no one reported them to our Chaplain, Harry McKnight, and myself. Deaths of anyone who served in the Sixth Marine Division need to be reported to us and not to the Editor or other officers, and it is never too late. Sons and daughters can be very helpful in this regard – especially if Mom is not up to the task.

(continued on next page)

Message from the Membership Manager

(continued from previous page)



I wish I could look forward to meeting some of the many members that called me for help – we had such wonderful conversations – but I will be "down the road a piece" in Wilmington, NC at the U.S. Marine Raider Association meeting on the same dates. Maybe next year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Flo Dornan, Membership Manager  
(817) 275-1552  
Sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net  
704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011

Donations

Looking back through some of my Check Logs, I found that I had inadvertently omitted some of the donations I received. One thing I always want to do is give credit to those who give so generously to the Association. Therefore, that is the reason for an exceptionally long list of donors in this edition. My apologies to those who have waited for thanks for their donations.

~ Flo Dornan

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James Monbeck  
Lawrence Paleno

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Minnie B. Sanner

\*Above and beyond

Anxious to See the Newsletter Sooner?

It can take 2-4 weeks for the newsletters to be delivered. (That's how we get the cheapest postal rate.) If you don't want to wait that long, look for the newsletter on the Sixth Division's Website. It is posted there about the same time it goes to the printer.

You can find it at this address:

<http://www.sixthmarinedivision.com/>

New Members

KELLEY ROUSE, ID #6058  
Daughter of Marvin Skeath  
4<sup>th</sup> Mar-HQ, Annual LD to Life LD member  
416 Winder Street  
Salisbury, MD 21801-58349  
kjr1@verizon.net

Membership Status @ July 5, 2013

Regular	1,259
Associate	597
Lineal Descendant	152
Honorary	8
Total Membership	2,016

Newsletter Subscribers @ July 5, 2013

Paid for 2012	73
Paid for 2013	271
Paid for 2014 and beyond	209





Membership Application / Change of Address Form

First Name\_\_\_\_\_MI\_\_\_\_\_Last Name\_\_\_\_\_Spouse Name\_\_\_\_\_

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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:

Relative's Name\_\_\_\_\_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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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

**Please remember: Membership dues are separate from Newsletter subscriptions. To continue receiving the Newsletter, you must pay for a subscription each year, even if you are a Life Member of the Association.** Check the back of the newsletter to see when your current membership and newsletter subscription expires. See coding instructions below.

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

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Striking Sixth

# America Needs More Marine Corps Values

By Mark Shields (first published in 2010)

A half a century ago, I spent the longest 13 weeks of my life at an out-of-the-way place called Parris Island, S.C., then and now the home of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

We were strangers who arrived there in the middle of the night and were immediately relieved of all our civilian clothing and possessions — including our hair. Standing there confused, apprehensive and bald, I remember asking myself over and over: What the hell am I doing here?

Then silently appeared in our midst a man in a starched uniform and polished boots brimming with self-confidence and a sense of command. This was the Marine drill instructor, the DI, who did not conceal his disgust with what he saw in us. I can still hear him say that we were the sorriest collection of misfits and rejects he or anyone else had ever seen.

What followed was 90 days of splendid misery. Civilian habits, speech and attitude were marched and drilled and driven out of us. The DI was relentlessly democratic. He treated everyone in our platoon, 189, with equal contempt, while double-timing us 12 hours a day from mess duty to the rifle range and back. He used his personal term of endearment to remind us, "Maggot, remember, you volunteered to be here."

Somehow after more than three months of no Cokes, no beer, no TV and not even a day off, the DI, by then our Ultimate Authority Figure, reluctantly conceded that just possibly, maybe someday, we might actually be Marines. The combination of joy, relief and pride was unmatched.

I was not a great Marine. I never saw combat. I got a lot more from the Marines than the Marines got from me. But I believe fervently that this nation today needs the values of the Marine Corps as much as the nation needs the Marine Corps.

Of course, honor, courage and commitment are always in short supply. But the Marines teach personal responsibility and accountability by example, that any chain is only as strong as the weakest individual link. As a unit, we are stronger working together than the individual members can separately be.

Marines take care of their own — and they take care of their fellow Marines before themselves. The well-being of the country and of the Corps is more important than our individual well-being.

This may best be stated in the hard-and-fast Marine rule: "Officers eat last." The Marine officer does not eat until after his subordinates for whom he is responsible — the corporals and privates — have been fed. Marines live by the rule that loyalty goes both up and down the chain of command. Would not our country be a more just and humane place if the brass of Wall Street and Washington and executive suites believed that "officers eat last"?

The Marine ethic emphasizes responsibility to duty and responsibility to others before self. This is the very opposite of the unbridled individualism

that elevates profit and personal comfort to high virtues. The selfish and self-centered CEO or senator who disregards and discards his loyal "troops" would be shunned in the Corps.

Civilian Americans must understand that the greatest civil rights victories have been won by the Marines and the U.S. military, the most successfully integrated sector of our national life. Why? No racial reference and no racial discrimination. The first time I ever slept in the same quarters with African-Americans or Latinos — or took orders from them — was as a private in the Marines Corps.

Yes, America really does need more Marine values and influence.

Summer 2013

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# Sixth Marine Division Association

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## Striking Sixth Newsletter

**Summer 2013**

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## Sixth Marine Division Reunion — Quantico Virginia

AUGUST 14—18, 2013

See pages 13-14 for Schedule of Events and Hotel Information