

# STRIKING SIXTH

## 1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 39, No. 3

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Fall 2014

## 2014 Reunion — All Smiles!

While the 2014 Reunion had all the cherished elements of past reunions — hospitality room, field trips, memorial service, etc. — it had a new twist this year. We had a joint dinner banquet with the Battalion Landing Team 2/3 1979 (BLT 2/3).

The joint banquet came about when the BLT 2/3 learned that they were planning their reunion for the same weekend and same hotel as the Sixth Division. In addition to reunion logistics, the two groups were connected in the person of 6MarDiv Association member, Jean Steed. Jean's father is the late Dan Dereschuk (22nd Mar-2-G) of the Sixth Division, and her husband Bill is a member of BLT 2/3. With that connection, a joint banquet was a foregone conclusion.

It was a wonderful evening. Members of the BLT 2/3 presented Sixth Division veterans with a canteen cup, and gifts were given to the officers who worked with BLT 2/3 to plan the banquet.

The 6MarDiv Association warmly thanks the BLT 2/3 for their friendship and generosity. We wish you many more happy reunions!

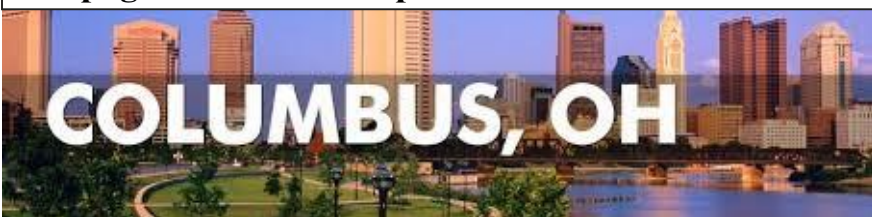
As for the rest of the 6MarDiv Reunion, it went off without a hitch. Okay, maybe that's an exaggeration, but, as usual, a fun time was had by all. Just look at the pictures on pages 2, 10-16 and 27 and count the smiles!



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**See page 17 for a sneak preview of the 2015 Reunion!**



Fall 2014



# 2014 SIXTH MARINE DIVISION REUNION



Standing - Dick Whitaker, Ray Welch, O.B Aasland, Harry Sandlaufer, Jim McGuigan, David Titus, Marty Gromley, Don Honis, Walter Callis, Harry Bertram, Harry Grover, Jesse Thomas, Harry McKnight, David Mears  
Sitting - Dick Roberts, Joseph Kite, Neal McCallum, Paul Judd, Alio Benedetti, Sam Petriello, Sam Ukrop

**SOME  
KIDS  
NEVER  
GROW  
UP!**



Dick Roberts, Joseph Kite, Sharon Woodhouse, Neal McCallum, Connie Houseweart



above: Dick Roberts, Joseph Kite, Harry Grover, Neal McCallum, Connie Houseweart, Paul Judd, Alio Benedetti  
right: Harry Grover, Tiffany Woodhouse





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ASSOCIATION  
2013-2014  
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22nd Marines	Bob Russell
29th Marines	Neil McCallum
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

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**The Striking Sixth Newsletter**

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

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704 Cooper Court  
Arlington, TX 76011

**Please make checks payable to:**  
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For more information, please contact Flo at:  
(817) 275-1552 or  
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Newsletter Subscription Dues for 2015 are due December 31, 2014. Remember - you must pay for the newsletter each year, even if you are a Lifetime Member.

**Letters to the editor, materials for publication, suggestions, and feedback** can be sent to:  
Carroll McGowan, chm1423@aol.com, 1423 Pueblo Drive, Pittsburgh, PA, 15228, (412) 341-9219

# Ladies Auxiliary Report

## Another Reunion on the Records



Ladies who were not at the reunion this year will be happy to know that Carroll McGowan did a great job of being sure we had a nice luncheon in

the hotel this year. We had 24 in attendance. We started our meeting and part way through, lunch was served, giving us an opportunity to discuss the motion that was on the floor at the time. After lunch we finished the meeting, which included the election and installation of officers for the next two years. President - Barbara McKnight; Vice President - Carroll McGowan; Secretary - Carolyn Risher; Treasurer - Pauline Roberts; Asst. Treasurer - Connie Houseweart; Sgt. of Arms - Joan Willauer; Chaplain - Minnie Belle Sanner.

In the past the Ladies Auxiliary has made their money with the craft table, but in recent years we've had fewer and fewer crafts (although they have been great). This year two talented

cooks made some treats (candy and cake) for us to purchase, and other non-edible items were put up for auction after the General Meeting. The ladies made some nice items, and the men also donated many nice items to the auction. There were great Marine books donated by authors. The Ladies Auxiliary made over \$3,000 with the auction and 50-50 raffle.

There were plenty of auctioned items to choose from including several items I wish I had bid on or bid more on. One was a large silhouette of the "Fallen Marine" on bended knee and bowed head with a second silhouette of the rifle, boots and helmet. This was made by Robert and David Ascher whose uncle was killed in action. It would have been perfect to use at the Memorial Service had I thought early enough about it and made a bid. There were also three really beautiful pieces of jewelry purchased from a jewelry store just for us to auction. They were donated by Joan Willauer, Pam Bloustine, and Karen Kelly, and now that I am home I wish I had bid more. There was a great warm reversible Marine Jacket that

was donated by the family of George Tremblay. There were a lot of other great items to bid on as you can tell by the money the auction brought in. This auction and the 50-50 are the ways the Ladies Auxiliary raises money to donate to the Marines. The sons and daughters' donations to the auction were a great help too, and even nieces and nephews donated. We had a great auctioneer in Sharon Woodhouse (former Ladies Auxiliary secretary), and we even had our own Vanna White — Connie Houseweart (Ladies Auxiliary Asst. Treasurer and former Vice President) — to showcase and demonstrate the items.

Hopefully we can have the same number and quality of items next year and we can do some early Christmas shopping. (I was not thinking of that either when doing my bidding.)

Thanks again to all who supported our Ladies Auxiliary with your donated items. They were greatly appreciated.

~ Barbara McKnight  
Ladies Auxiliary President

## Searching for Missing Book

The Association owns a set of four volumes of personal recollections of Six Marine Division Veterans. One of the volumes has been missing since the reunion. If anyone accidentally picked up Volume 4, please contact Lisa Benedetti or one of the officers. (Contact information is on page 3.)

The book has a red cover and looks just like Volume 2 pictured to the right.

Also, if anyone owns a set of all four volumes, please let Lisa know. We would like to have them reproduced.





# Chaplain Report



Another fun time at Quantico and another TAPS memorial. Lately I have been thinking about how fortunate we have all been

when we have had so many years at the reunions. Yes we are sad when one of our Marines or Wives' names are called. Jesus said, "As in Adam all die even so in Christ all shall be made alive." We take comfort in the resurrection, but some of our buddies were never able to attend a reunion. I am always reminded that four of my close friends – not even 20 years old – were killed very close to me: Bob McTureous, Melford McDermott, Bill Daily, and Carl Haller. Their mothers only received their personal effects and had no knowledge of how they died or who was next to them. They only

could put a Gold Star in their window and maybe keep a few letters in a box.

On June 4, 1945 we made the final landing on the southern end of Okinawa and set up our machine gun on the sea wall to prevent a counter landing by the Nips. During a lull I was drawing cartoons on my tablet and Bill Daily was writing a letter to his mother. He asked me, "Hey Mac, could you draw a picture of me so I can send it with this letter? My Mom does not have a picture of me. I said, "Yes. I had a good art teacher in high school." So I drew the picture, and I saw him put it and the letter in his breast pocket. He was killed the next day.

On the next day – June 5 – Carl Haller asked me to draw a picture of him. Same results. Don Mahoney was wounded the same day but survived. Interestingly, on the 7th Bob McTureous was

wounded, but he died on the hospital ship heading for Saipan. Just before we shipped out to Guam from San Diego, we went downtown and had photos of the three of us taken – Bob, Don and me – and I sent all three to my mother with addresses of the other two. Bob's mother responded to say how she was thankful for the picture, but the next day she got word that he had died of his wounds

So my good friends, be thankful for having so many still able to enjoy our reunions.

Barb encourages you to have a mini family reunion with us in Columbus with sons, daughters and grand kids.

Keep the commandments and pray for our country.

Your friendly Chaplain,  
Harry McKnight

---

## Many Thanks to Those Listed Below Who Made Donations!

### REUNION

Robert and David  
Ascher  
Benedetti Family  
Dolores Bertram  
Pam Bloustine  
Heidi Calhoun  
David Hilner  
Connie Houseweart  
Karen Kelly  
Joseph Kite  
Julie Koonce

Jim Monbeck  
Patty Payne  
Robert Pringle  
Pfuong Riles  
Pauline Roberts  
Paul Sanner  
Helen Simmons  
Sgt. Grit  
Jesse Thomas and  
Family  
George Tremblay  
Family

Joan Willauer  
Greg & Sharon  
Woodhouse  
Tiffany Woodhouse

### DIRECTORY

David Durr

### MEMORIAL MARKER FUND

David Durr  
Helen Kelso

### GENERAL FUND

Daniel Accrocco  
Heidi H. Calhoun  
David Durr  
W. W. Marshall\*  
Emily Ukrop

*\*above and beyond*

# An Army Officer Comments on Our Marine Birthday Tradition

Good week here as we bring in our new crews and get them up to speed with the environment, the situation and the enemy. Good week in that I was able to send some of my Marines home after a tough and valor-filled deployment.

I've had the opportunity over the past few days to take part in one of the greatest military traditions in the US Armed Forces: the remembrance and celebration of the Marine Corps--and all of those who have the honor of calling themselves Marines--on the anniversary of the Corps founding. So a little context is necessary here.

First, the majority of my task force, and certainly the core of our fighting formation, is made up of Marine Special Operators. Second, we work within the Area of Operations of Regional Command Southwest currently under the command of II MEF

(FWD)....that's basically a Marine Division Headquarters. So we are basically surrounded by the USMC, and the bulk of my formation is USMC. Third, several months ago these same Marines accosted us Army types, with shouts of Happy Birthday followed by back slaps and EW-RAH! It took me all day to figure out that this just wasn't some practical joke used as an excuse to slap us all on the back, but instead, was an actual sentiment of appreciation for the US Army on our Birthday. Marines take birthday seriously.

For the life of me, I can't tell you what day the Army's birthday falls on. Honestly if you put a gun to my head and told me to pick which month it was in, I'd probably be doomed. I think we have a ball in DC during the Army Birthday that no grunts attend, but several celebrities probably do. And I'm pretty sure, although not completely certain, that we don't have a lot of tradition around the Birthday. Perhaps we do, but if I'm not aware of those traditions after 20 years of service then they probably aren't traditions in any real sense. And my intent here isn't to poke fun at the Army--fun and easy as it is--but, rather, to set the contrast. There isn't a Lance Corporal on the face of the globe that doesn't know what happens on the Marine Corps Birthday. Since 1921, and after the orders of the 13th Commandant, the Marine Corps celebrates the Birthday as close to 10 November as possible. No matter how many Marines are present, no matter the conditions that they are living in, no matter that it may occur solemnly during a lull in the fight, the Marines are celebrating their Birthday. The history behind it is fantastic, the traditions around it are tremendous, the fact that Marines--not the institution but the guys on the line--approach it solemnly as a remembrance of Marines past and present is awesome. The ceremony is all about the brotherhood that connects every Marine

of the present to every Marine of the past, and unlike so many of the chicken-shit ceremonies that we conduct unto ourselves--this connection is real and I swear you can feel it just standing among them as they conduct it. I could be growing old and sentimental, or it could be that this ceremony grows more dignified in combat, but I'd guess that the ceremony has the same impact and effect and connective power regardless of where it happens. Lance Corporals don't have it in their power to fake ANYTHING. They are a constant source of amusement for me because they say and do exactly what they are thinking. You want the truth about how you look, ask a Lance Corporal. You want to know if your tactical situation is good and screwed? The Lance Corporal will tell you, "Sir, we are good and screwed". They take their birthday seriously and reverently--and in so doing these young guys are connected to their Master Gunnery Sergeants of today, and Vietnam Veterans and WWII Warriors of yesterday's glory, in a way that I--an Army dude--can never be. I attended one USMC Regiment's Marine Birthday celebration and any Marine alive would have been proud of the precision and revelry that went into it. They'd be proud of the Sergeant Major who gave a brotherhood, blood and guts speech that left the young Marines in awe. But my

*continued on next page*

## 2014 Reunion Attendees

Aasland, O.B  
Woodhouse, Gregg & Sharon  
Woodhouse, Tiffany  
Abbott, Mary  
Simmons, Helen  
Benedetti, Alio, Angela,  
Anita, Lisa & Melinda  
Bertram, Harry & Dolores  
Bloustine, Pam  
Callis, Walter  
Ewing, Joseph Jr. & Peggy  
Ewing, Ann  
McCauley, Sam  
Gromley, Marty  
Gleason, Pat & Jody  
Liddington, Lucinda  
Grover, Harry  
Slomka, Larry & Sally  
Honis, Donald  
Calhoun, Adam & Heidi  
Houseweart, Connie  
Hilner, David  
Judd, Paul & Shirley

Kelly, Karen  
Kite, Joseph  
Kite, Joe  
Koonce, Julie  
Lacey, Laura  
Long, Keith  
Mears, David  
Lutts, Louise  
McCallum, Neal  
Riles, Pfuong  
McGowan, Bob & Carroll  
McGuigan, Jim  
Descano, Rick  
Payne, Patty  
McKnight, Harry & Barb  
Mernin, James Sr.  
Mesloh, Jo  
Hennon, Tracie  
Monbeck, Jim  
Petriello, Sam  
Risher, Carolyn  
Roberts, Dick, Pauline & John

Sandlaufer, Harry  
Cohen, Anne  
Sanner, Minnie Belle & Paul  
Snyder, Cheryl  
Metz, Joseph  
Steed, Bill & Jean  
Thomas, Jesse  
Harris, Chuck & Diane  
Christman, Tina & Anika  
Lewis, Lori, Payton & Nate  
Titus, David & Barbara  
Ukrop, Sam & Emily  
Wallace, Robert  
Wrenn, Richard  
Walker, Mary, Angie, Luke,  
Lynne & Rob  
Weberling, Dorothy  
Welch, Ray  
Cremeens, Jim & Judy  
Whitaker, Dick & Eileen  
Willauer, Joan

*We sincerely apologize if we missed anyone or misspelled any names.*

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## Marine Birthday Tradition

favorite by far was the small ceremony that my departing Marine Special Operations Company (812) held just prior to their re-deployment home. They had spent the last six months fighting, advising, shaping and influencing an enormous battle space of Helmand. Most of them--nearly all of them--have deployed into this province several times before. They remembered the sacrifices that they've made, their families have made, and the ultimate sacrifice of several brother Marines over the past

few years. We've paid a large sum of blood and treasure in Helmand, most of it shouldered by the USMC. My Marines kept faith with one another this deployment, their accomplishments were tremendous throughout a tough and kinetic fighting season, and on this occasion they re-deployed with every Marine that they deployed with. It was an awesome way to send them home. So in the words of Lieutenant General Lejeune, in his message delivered to the USMC in 1921:

"In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term 'Marine' has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue." Happy Birthday Marines. Rest well today knowing that the Marines of the present represent their Corps with the pride and honor you expect."

# More Than 200 Years of Honor, Courage & Commitment

10 NOVEMBER 1775 - 10 NOVEMBER 2013

*written in 2013 by Kieran Michael Lalor, Marine Corps Veteran and New York State Assemblyman*

As we celebrate the birthday of the United States Marine Corps today, it is fascinating to explore why the smallest branch of the US Armed Forces holds such a big place in American society.

To start, Marines historically have taken disproportionate casualties, a trend that has continued during the Global War on Terror. The Marine Corps presently makes up less than eleven percent of the U.S. military but more than twenty-three percent of the Americans killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan are Marines.

The Corps' history of battlefield success against long odds is also a primary reason why the sight of a Marine in Dress Blues or a bagpiper belting out the Marine Corps hymn has an immediate positive impact on a huge chunk of the American population. Marines protected Washington DC from three major British assaults during the War of 1812 and stopped the German advance at the battle of Belleau Wood in WWI. Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal and Okinawa were bloodbaths but the Marine Corps accomplished the mission and revolutionized amphibious warfare.

Even in less popular conflicts, the Corps added to its reputation. Marines outnumbered eight

to one broke through communist Chinese lines and inflicted devastating casualties on the enemy during the bitter cold Chosin Reservoir campaign in Korea. Leathernecks also distinguished



themselves by fighting house to house in Hue City, Vietnam and crushing the insurgency in Fallujah, Iraq.

The Corps' commitment to its own glorious history is remarkable and inspires present and future generations of Marines. No Marine graduates boot camp without knowing about the battle for Tarawa, an island that was so heavily fortified the Japanese Commander charged with defending it bragged that it would take a million men attacking for one hundred years to take it. The 2nd Marine Division took Tarawa in less than four days.

Likewise, every Marine puts on the uniform knowing that he or

she must live up to the standards set by Marine Corps giants like Lt. General Chesty Puller (5 Navy Crosses), Gunner Sergeant John Basilone (Medal of Honor, Navy Cross) and Sergeant Major Dan Daly (2 Medals of Honor). This creates an environment where every Marine wants to overachieve, perpetually propelling the Corps to new heights.

The Marine Corps' legacy is even enhanced by its political incorrectness. Marines do what is best for Country and Corps and care not what the elites in government, academia or the press think about their old school ways. For example, the Marine Corps is the only branch that trains men and women separately. Single-gender training is anachronistic to some but it's hard to argue with the Marine Corps' success.

Finally, no organization has a more zealous alumni than the Marines. A few good men have established more than 600 national Marine Corps organizations with thousands of local chapters. The largest such group, the Marine Corps League, has more than 900 community-based detachments throughout the United States.

Enhancing the impact that Marine Corps alumni have on its



## 200+ Years

*continued from the prior page*

storied reputation, many former Marines have made huge impacts on the World. The first American to orbit the earth and the last ball-player to bat .400, John Glenn and Ted Williams respectively, were proud Marines who served together. Fredrick W. Smith who founded FedEx and former Secretary of State and White House Chief of Staff James A. Baker also claimed the title United States Marine.

Because of this rich heritage the Marine Corps' entire recruiting philosophy is essentially: we pay less and take more casualties. Despite the seemingly uninviting pitch, new recruits keep pouring in. Even a few years back when the other branches struggled mightily to fill their ranks as the Iraq war declined in popularity, the Marine Corps routinely exceeded its goals.

President Ronald Reagan summed up perfectly why America loves the Marine Corps when he said, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem."

Semper Fidelis!

## Sixth Marine Division 2015-2016 Scholarships

APPLY JANUARY 1 - MARCH 31

Applications for the 2015—2016 school year will be taken from January 1 through March 1, 2015.

Grandchildren are welcome to create accounts on the website at [www.mcsf.org](http://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](mailto:chmcg11@aol.com).

## 2014 2015 Scholarship Recipients

Recipient/School	Marine Grandparent
Corey J. Aday Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Private First Class Richard Anderson USMC
Kaitlin Deutsch University of South Florida	Corporal Jack Houston USMC
David J. Gonzalez Concordia University	Corporal Brice Gonzalez USMC
Michael J. Rutledge Kean University	Corporal Joseph McConville USMC
Raymond M. Rutledge Kean University	Corporal Joseph McConville USMC
Kevin T. Slocum Boston College	Corporal Thomas Santoro USMC
Hayley E. Feightner University of Dayton	Private First Class Douglas Gordon USMC
Aaron J. Hansen The Citadel	Private First Class John Hansen USMC
John F. Seibert Texas A&M University	Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Seibert USMC (Ret.)



Sam Petriello, Louise Lutts, Joan Willauer, Tiffany Woodhouse, Julie Koonce, Karen Kelly, David Mears

## HANGING OUT IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM



Pfung Riles with exotic fruits from her garden



Dick & Eileen Whitaker



Harry Sandlaufer, Anne Cohen, Walter Callis



Tracie Hennon & Jo Mesloh



Ray Welch, Tiffany Woodhouse, O.B. Aasland



Sally Slomka, Patty Payne



Tiffany Woodhouse, Karen Kelly, Joan Willauer, Pam Bloustine, Connie Houseweart



Sharon Woodhouse, Lisa Benedetti, Connie Houseweart



Harry McKnight, Sam Petriello



Rob, Lynne, Mary, Angie & Luke Walker



Rob Walker, Julie Koonce, Neil McCallum, Pfuong Riles, Jim Monbeck, Tiffany Woodhouse, Connie Houseweart, Mary Walker, Lynne Walker, Jody Gleason, Pat Gleason, David Hilner Mar



Jody & Pat Gleason, Lucinda Liddington



Paul & Minnie Belle Sanner



Jim Monbeck, Walter Callis



Tiffany Woodhouse, Julie Koonce, Marty Gromley



Connie Houseweart, David Hilner



Alio Benedetti, Harry Grover



Minnie Sanner, Harry & Dolores Bertram



Jim Monbeck, Jim McGuigan

## 2014 REUNION



The Manassas Chorale Ensemble

## FIELD TRIPS AND OTHER GOOD TIMES



Paul Sanner entertains after the barbecue



Barbecue at the hotel



Donations for the auction



Sharon Woodhouse pours wine for David Titus at the wine tasting



Sam Ukrop, Sam Petriello at the annual meeting



Auctioneer Sharon Woodhouse



Tiffany Woodhouse pours wine for Joseph Metz



Christian Miles talking with Barb & Harry McKnight after his presentation about his uncle, First Lieutenant Rogers Blood, USMC (KIA WWII) and Sergeant Richard Seifel, USMC.



Barb McKnight, Joan Willauer, Pam Bloustine at the Ladies Auxiliary meeting





6MarDiv group celebrates the Navy's birthday with steak, lobster, and shrimp at the chow hall (really!)



Presentation at OCS



Eileen Whitaker, Don Honis on the base



Laura Lacey welcomes everyone to the Globe & Laurel



Gregg Woodhouse, David & Barbara Titus, O.B. Aasland at the Globe & Laurel



Neal McCallum, Julie Koonce, Tiffany Woodhouse, Pfuong Riles at the Globe & Laurel



John, Dick & Pauline Roberts in front of the Museum



Minnie Belle Sanner takes a picture at the Museum



National Museum of the Marine Corps



## DINNER BANQUET AT THE MUSEUM



Jim McGuigan,  
Patty Payne



Joseph Metz, Cheryl Snyder with  
picture of her father, Jack Snyder



David Titus, Joseph & Joe Kite



Guest Speaker  
General Walter E.  
Boomer USMC



Jo Mesloh,  
Tracie Hennon



Tina Christman,  
Lori Lewis



Jesse Thomas, Diane Harris



Anita, Alio, Melinda, & Angela Benedetti,  
Tiffany Woodhouse, Lisa Benedetti



Barb & Harry McKnight



Helen Simmons,  
Mary Abbott



Emcee Bob  
McGowan



Pauline, Dick & John Roberts



Tina & Anika Christman, Chuck & Diane Harris, Jesse Thomas, Nate, Payton & Lori Lewis



Louise Lutts, Tiffany Woodhouse, David Mears, Mary Abbott



Larry & Sally Slomka, Tiffany Woodhouse, Harry Grover



Richard Wrenn, Robert Wallace



Neal McCallum, Pfuong Riles, Carolyn Risher Paul & Shirley Judd



Jim Monbeck, O.B. Aasland, Louise Lutts



Sam Petriello with gift from BLT 2/3



Joe Kite, Tiffany Woodhouse, Lisa Benedetti, Joseph Kite



David Mears, O. B. Aasland



Connie Houseweart, David Hilner





## MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE MUSEUM CHAPEL



Pfuong Riles, Minnie Sanner



Neal McCallum, Dick Whitaker



Final Call of the Roll: Chaplain Harry McKnight reads the names, Don Honis rings the bell



Sam Petriello



row 1: Dick & Eileen Whitaker, Joseph & Joe Kite  
row 2: Adam & Heidi Calhoun  
row 3: Jesse Thomas, Diane & Chuck Harris



After the service: David Mears, Don Honis



Alio Benedetti, Neal McCallum



# Start Planning for the 2015 Reunion!

When: August 17 — 23

Where: Marriott Airport Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

Hosts: Harry & Barb McKnight

## Key Facts About the Marriott

- One mile from the Columbus airport
- Free shuttle to and from the airport
- Free parking
- Six floors with 207 rooms and 20 suites
- Accessible guest rooms
- Starbucks!
- Free shuttle to Easton Town Center, which has more than 150 stores, dozens of eateries, and 30 movie screens
- Special reunion rate of \$119 for a deluxe guest room will be offered two days before and after reunion
- Very nice hospitality room
- Dinner banquet, Memorial Service, annual meeting, and Ladies Auxiliary lunch will all be held at the hotel — easy and convenient!

## Getting to Columbus

- The Columbus Airport has 30 non-stop flights to cities around the country. Southwest Airlines generally offers the cheapest prices.
- Two major interstates intersect near downtown Columbus — I-70 (east/west) and I-71 (north/south).

## Fun Facts About Columbus

- Capital and largest city in Ohio
- 15th largest city in the US
- Founded in 1812 and named for (you guessed it) Christopher Columbus
- America's 20th Best City (Bloomberg Businessweek, 2012)
- 8th Best Big City to Live In (CNN Money, 2006)
- Most Intelligent City in the US (Intelligent Communities Forum — they should know! — 2013)
- Number 1 Up-and-Coming Tech City in US (Forbes, 2008)
- 15th Most Literary City and 19th Best Educated City in the US (Central Connecticut State University, 2008)
- 2nd Most Manly City in the US (Sperling's BestPlaces, 2010)
- A Top City for Salad Consumption (Dole Nutrition Institute, 2010)
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium — ranked Best Zoo in the Nation (USA Travel Guide, 2009)

Look for more information on Columbus in the Spring Striking Sixth!

## Message from Harry and Barb McKnight

Please ask your children and grandchildren to save the dates and plan their vacation so they can join you at the 2015 Reunion.

At the 2014 reunion there was one Marine who was there with his daughter and her husband, two grand daughters, and three great grand children!

They enjoyed their time together as a family and learned important history lessons from and about the friends of "their Marine" that they will always remember.

Last year there were several adult children who came from various parts of the US to spend the week at a

"reunion" with their Marine dad, and they also learned about his Marine friends and their activities. What a special time to be able spend together.

We are currently looking into trips and entertainment. If you, your children, or grand children have any suggestions on what you would like to do or how we can make the reunion better and more enjoyable for you, please contact Harry or Barb McKnight. Our contact information is listed on page 3.

Editor's Note: I've been to Columbus twice. It really is a fun city with lots of things to do. Stay tuned!

# MAIL CALL



## 6MarDiv Tankers Patch for Sale

I just recently became an associate member of the 6th Marine Division Association. My Dad, PFC Fredrick S. Bankus (E-2-29th Marines) belonged to the Association until he passed away in June 1996 of bone marrow cancer. So, I thought it might be neat to stay up on matters with his old unit.

Our family is from Mifflinville, PA, a small town not far from Bloomsburg. I am a retired Army "Tanker." I work at U.S. Army War College Military History Institute, in Carlisle, PA interviewing retired Army General Officers, such as former Army Chiefs of Staff, Vice Chiefs etc. My son John is a Sergeant Major in the Marine Corps stationed at your Infantry School at Camp Pendleton, CA. As a military historian, I asked for and received permission from the Association to create commemorative patches for the "Tankers" of the 6th Marine Division.

As a "Tanker" I am also a collector and dealer of military memorabilia, mostly unit patches. As you know the Marine Corps stopped wearing official shoulder sleeve insignia in 1947, but as you probably also know, one can purchase "unofficial" Marine patches from vendors like Sgt Grit among others, representing the various Marine units.

Best Regards,  
Brent Bankus



To purchase a Tankers Patch, contact Brent Bankus at [brentbankus@yahoo.com](mailto:brentbankus@yahoo.com). The cost is \$8.00.



## Looking for Information on John George McCarty

My Father, John George McCarty, fought with the 6th Marine Division, 22nd Regiment at Okinawa and Sugar Loaf Hill. I am looking for any information about his regiment, and I would love to hear from Marines who served with in his Regiment or who knew him.

Erin McCarty  
[Erin.McCarty@townsquaremedia.com](mailto:Erin.McCarty@townsquaremedia.com)



John George McCarty



## 6th Tank Btn

Dear Mrs. Florence,

I am writing to you to send you ten dollars for the newsletter for 2015. I enjoy it very much. In addition, my wife and I are not able to fly anymore. We have attended many reunions in the past years. They were all fabulous. I wish I could attend more but our bodies cannot take the toll.

As to the 6<sup>th</sup> Tank Btn, I was named as director. There are very few members of the Tank Btn left. I have talked to them and they are interested. You can still keep me as director. It has been an honor to me. If you can find anyone who wishes to be a director, go for it.

Sincerely,  
Salvatore Mistretta  
6<sup>th</sup> Tank Btn  
210 Washington St, Apt 7  
Peabody, MA 01960



# Corporal Edward J. Couchon Jr. Commemorated

## FIVE 6TH MARINE DIVISION VETERANS ATTEND CEREMONY IN LITTLE FERRY, NJ

On May 10, 1945, CPL Edward J. Couchon Jr. USMC (22nd Mar-1-C) was killed in action in the Battle of Charlie Hill, Okinawa. There was no public ceremony to honor CPL Couchon's sacrifice.

On October 4, 2014, CPL Couchon's medals were presented to surviving family members thanks to the efforts of David Pelletier, a relative of CPL Couchon. Despite the fact that a street in Little Ferry, NJ was named to honor CPL Couchon in 1959, Mr. Pelletier was concerned that his legacy had faded. Practically no one in the community had any knowledge of who CPL Couchon was or what he had done for his country.

While researching CPL Couchon's service, Mr. Pelletier, who served in the military himself, was contacted by the son of a high school friend in Maine who was writing a book. The two joined forces, and Mr. Pelletier spent countless hours and traveled numerous days in his quest to honor CPL Couchon. As a result of his hard work, along with donations from several businesses and individuals, Mr. Pelletier was able to make his dream come true: to have CPL Couchon's medals presented to his family with the appropriate military protocol and ceremony. And even more important: to keep CPL Couchon's memory alive.

Nearly 350 people from nine states attended the event. All five branches of the military, as well as various veterans service and fraternal organizations, were in attendance. Representing the Sixth Division were Andy Horvath, Bill Maskal, Bob Mitchell, Sam Petriello, and Andy Sinatra. Also attending were 6MarDiv Association members, Jim Horvath and Bob McGowan. During the presentation of the medals, Bob Mitchell

and Andy Sinatra, who were in the same unit as CPL Couchon, served as honor guard.

Twelve living veterans of World War II were also honored. A barbecue followed the event.

Mr. Pelletier hopes that this event sets an example for others to follow, so that other fallen service members from World War II are recognized for their unselfish service. It was their sacrifice that helped to make America what it is today.



Andy Sinatra



Sam Petriello



from left: Sam Petriello, Andy Sinatra, Bob Mitchell, Andy Horvath, Bill Maskal

## 6MarDiv Veteran Met Richard Fiske, Bugler at Pearl Harbor

While attending the U.S. Marine Corps Ball in 1998 celebrating the Marine Corps' 223rd birthday held at the Ilikai Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, William Cloud (Regimental R.2 Section, 22nd Marines) had the pleasure of meeting Richard Fiske.

Mr. Fiske was the bugler aboard the USS West Virginia on the morning of December 7, 1941. Standing on the quarter deck he looked the Japanese Dive Bomber in the eye as he flew over the West Virginia after dropping the torpedo that sank the battleship.

Many years after the end of WWII, Mr. Fiske met Zenji Abe, one of the Japanese pilots who participated in the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the two became friends.

After Mr. Fiske's retirement from the military service, he was a volunteer at the U.S.S. Arizona Visitor Center at Pearl Harbor.



Richard Fiske (left) with William Cloud and his wife, Kikue

Mr. Fiske passed away on April 2, 2004 and was buried in the Military "Punch Bowl" Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii.

*In the box below is the notice of Richard Fiske's death that appeared in the Honolulu Advertiser.*

### Fiske Death Notice

Richard I. Fiske, a World War II veteran who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and the battle of Iwo Jima, died Friday in his home. He was 82 years old.

Fiske's son, Richard E. Fiske, said yesterday his father died quickly and peacefully at his home.

The elder Fiske, born in Boston, was the son of a career military man and had begun his military career as a Marine. He was 19 years old in 1941 and a bugler serving his first assignment after boot camp and field music school aboard the USS West Virginia in Pearl Harbor. He was on the quarterdeck the morning of December 7, when nine Japanese torpedoes and two aerial bombs crashed into the battleship.

At his battle station, Fiske saw his captain killed. When the order came to abandon ship, he swam to Ford Island. The ship sank in 12 minutes.

Fiske was later promoted to Field Music Sergeant and was transferred to the 5th Marine Division. His bugle was taken away and he was made an assistant platoon leader.

He was with the 5th Marine Division in February 1945 in the battle for Iwo Jima, an 8-square-mile Pacific island. The fighting went on for 36 days and exacted a huge human toll: 6,800 Americans dead and more than 19,000 wounded. Of 20,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived.

Fiske once described Iwo Jima as "36 straight days of Pearl Harbor."

After the war, Fiske enlisted in the newly established U.S. Air Force in 1948 after completing aircraft and engine school and also receiving his private pilot's certificate. He also served during the Korean and Vietnam wars as a crew chief on KC-97 and KC-135 aircraft. Sgt. Fiske retired from the Air Force in 1973 as a master sergeant.

Fiske had been a volunteer at the Arizona Memorial since 1982. In January, he was among 10 volunteers honored by U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton and Hawai'i Gov. Linda Lingle for contributing more than 3,000 hours of his time to the memorial.

Before his death, Fiske made peace with the enemy of his youth, becoming friends with Zenji Abe, a Japanese dive-bomber pilot who had participated in the second wave of attacks on Pearl Harbor and the bombing of the West Virginia.

Abe, too, had made a career of the military, retiring as an admiral. In 1991, on Abe's third trip to Pearl Harbor and the Arizona, he gave Fiske \$300 and asked him to lay two roses at the memorial each month, one for him and one for Fiske. He also asked Fiske to play taps.

Fiske promised to continue the tribute for as long as he lived.

He kept his word, his son said.



## From the Historian Corner

*The article below originally ran in the Winter 2013 Striking Sixth. It is being rerun at the request of many people at the reunion.*

Several people have recently asked: What is the proper place to share WWII artifacts? If a member of the “greatest generation” kept an item all these years, one knows that it must have been special to them... but what does one do with those items when a friend/parent/husband is downsizing or has passed away?

If arrangements have not been made for those items, here are a few ideas. One suggestion is to contact a local county/city museum and or library. They may be very interested in the items, especially if they are accompanied with a period picture of the person who owned them or one that ties him/her to the community. Another place might be the local Marine League. There is also the museum in Okinawa on Camp Kinser. Unfortunately, places like the National Museum of the Marine Corps get so many donations that unless an item has some very special circumstance or was used by someone “famous,” they don’t seem to have much interest in them anymore.

Another possibility that is more personal, is creating a display for someone special in your family who will appreciate the

significance of such a gift. In our family, both of my sons have special mementos passed to them by a member of Sixth that are not only treasured, but they can tell the history of them. Hence the story of the Battle of Okinawa continues. My daughter was also given an item and she proudly displays it in her first home. For items kept in families, make sure they are preserved in a way that they will not deteriorate, especially for pictures and papers. Here is a website that may be helpful with that: <http://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/storing-photos.html>.

Another place that can be helpful with pictures and papers is the GRC or Alfred M. Grey Marine Corps Research Center, which is located at Quantico. The archives already has a Sixth collection that I created. I have been told it is the best Division collection. The GRC supports the educational need of the Marine Corps University, Marines worldwide, and other Marine Corps researchers (like me!). Here again, they are probably not interested in your “green book” (they have countless of them) or official Marine Corps pictures. However,



unique items—V-mail, personal pictures, diaries – are different. They also give historians a better picture of what the “regular guys” went through during that time. The address of the GRC is: Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center, 2040 Broadway Street, Quantico, VA 22134

Preserving our past and the legacy of our families is a valuable and important task. I hope that members of the Sixth are sharing their ‘sea stories’ with a special young person, perhaps one who is not even a family member. I encourage you to write or tape record your experiences, and I hope you know that there are people out there who care very much about the freedoms that you allowed us to continue to enjoy.

You can contact me if I can be of assistance at [laurahlacey@gmail.com](mailto:laurahlacey@gmail.com).

## Remembering Fred Abbott, Mayor of Woodland Avenue and Proud Marine

Frederick W. Abbott (29th MAR-2-HQ) died on August 5, 2014 in the E.N. Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, MA where his family reports he received exceptionally good care. Fred was the husband of Mary G. (Brown) and a resident of Medford, MA since 1965. He was 89 years old.

Besides his beloved wife, Mary, he will be missed by his loving daughters and their families -- Helen A. and her husband Robert M. Simmons of Colorado Springs, CO, Audrey S. and her husband Paul S. Abate of Chelsea and Dorothy M. and her husband Frank E. Seamster of Medford; five grandchildren -- Andrew Simmons, Stephanie Simmons Walsh and her husband, Michael, Kevin and Owen Seamster and Alicia Abate; and one great grandson -- Dylan, who Fred met for the first time on Super Bowl Sunday earlier this year.

Raised in Boston and Dorchester, Fred served as Class President of the Hyde Park High School, class of 1942. He joined the Marine Corps on December 10, 1942. After boot camp, he was a rifle range instructor at Parris Island and Camp Lejeune, NC. As a proud member of the 29<sup>th</sup> Marines, Sixth Marine Division, he fought on Okinawa. Fred received his honorable discharge on November 3, 1945 and was a Disabled American Veteran.

Fred attended the University of Massachusetts at Ft. Devens. He transferred to the University of Montana and received his degree in 1950. Fred loved the wide open spaces of Montana and stayed for two years after graduation, teaching high school English in the town of Plains.



Mary and Fred Abbott at the 2013 6MarDiv Reunion

Returning to Boston, Fred worked in industrial equipment sales for many years before retiring from the US Postal Service after 20 years of service.

Fred was a longtime communicant of St. Joseph Church in Medford and sang in the church choir. He was Past President of the Medford Plan E Civic Association and lovingly referred to as the “Mayor of Woodland Ave”, where he lived for 34 years. Always friendly and outgoing wherever he went, he would look up members of the Sixth Division when he went on family vacations and encourage those he found to attend the annual reunions. Fred and Mary enjoyed many reunions, and he was very much missed in Quantico this year. His wife, Mary, and daughter, Helen, attended and talked lovingly of Fred and how much he loved the reunions.



# 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.

ABBOTT, Frederick W.	29 <sup>th</sup> Mar-2-HQ	08/05/2014
ALLEN, Burr W.	6 <sup>th</sup> Engineering-C	unknown
BURD, Juanita	Wife of Cecil Burd	08/25/2014
D'AMORE, Sr., James V.	11 <sup>th</sup> Special Seabees	08/24/2014
FAIRBURN, Glynn	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar-1-HQ	05/29/2014
LAWSON, Ralph (NM)	6 <sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn	08/12/2013
LONG, Daniel G.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-2-F	07/11/2014
STEWART, Donald E.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-2-G	03/26/2014
STEWART, John H. (Jack)	22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar-2-F	09/11/2014
THESLOH, William	6 <sup>th</sup> Marine Division	12/29/2013
TREMBLAY, George W.	1 <sup>st</sup> ARM Amphib	07/07/2014
UBL, Alan H.	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar-1-C	08/20/2014

*My apologies if your loved one or friend was reported at the reunion and is not on the above list.  
He or she will be in Taps in the next newsletter.*

## New Members

CALHOUN, Heidi H., ID #6205  
Life Associate LD Member  
Daughter of Donald Honis  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-I  
Spouse: Adam  
3777 Summer Rose Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30341  
770-455-0736  
[hhonis@yahoo.com](mailto:hhonis@yahoo.com)

GLEASON, Jody, ID #6204  
Annual Associate LD Member  
Daughter of Marvin Gromley  
6<sup>th</sup> Division, Pioneer BN-C  
1131 N Palmway  
Lake Worth, FL 33460  
561-385-9444  
[jhgleason@me.com](mailto:jhgleason@me.com)

LAW, Bill, ID #6206  
Annual Member  
29<sup>th</sup> Marines-C  
3965 Chaneyville Rd.  
Owings, MD 20736  
443-550-3124  
[jim.law@idximpressions.com](mailto:jim.law@idximpressions.com)

SNYDER, Cheryl J., ID #5977  
Life Associate LD Member  
Daughter of Jack A. Snyder  
29<sup>th</sup> Mar-3-HQ  
538 Susquehanna Ave  
Sunbury, PA 17801  
[cjchem@1cloud.com](mailto:cjchem@1cloud.com)

## Membership Status

@ October 25, 2014

Regular	1,222
Associate	592
Lineal Descendant	166
Honorary	8
Total Membership	1,988

## Newsletter

## Subscribers

@ October 25, 2014

Paid for 2013	152
Paid for 2014	192
Paid for 2015-2023	157
Honorary Members	8

## Message from the Membership Manager



While putting together the Taps List for the 2014 Reunion, I got the distinct feeling that many of our fallen Marines are not being

reported and therefore not being memorialized. It is so important that Harry McKnight (Chaplain) and I receive these notices by mail, telephone call or email. So I am reminding everyone to remember to contact us by any method and asking that you not wait to be at the reunion to re-

port the passing of your loved one or friend. We try very hard to have an updated list to be memorialized, and reporting late can cause a real problem.

It is that time of year to remind everyone to look at their label on this latest newsletter to be sure you will get the next newsletter. If your label doesn't show "2015" or later, I won't be able to send the newsletter to you. While you are at it, also check the status of your dues and pay that too if you see "2014" or earlier. (See bottom of page 25 for more detail.)

FYI: Ever since I became Membership Manager, Watson Crumbie has kept a copy of the complete Association Roster. Since Watson is "a little" older than I am, I have engaged my son-in-law to also be in charge of assuring that the Association receives all computer files should anything happen to me – but I want you to know that my health is good at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Flo Dornan  
Membership Manager  
817-275-1552  
[sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net)

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## From the Editor | Giving Thanks



As Thanksgiving approaches, I give thanks that the Sixth Marine Division had another successful reunion. Of course, I am also thankful that

Bob and I were able to attend. We had a wonderful time, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. I am grateful to those who shared their stories with me. I continue to be amazed at how warmly everyone is welcomed into this group. It truly feels like a family.

We can all be thankful that Harry and Barb McKnight have volunteered to host the 2015 reunion in Columbus, Ohio, so we can look forward to getting together again next year. I hope

and pray that all those who were here in 2014 will be back and that those who couldn't make it will be able to attend next year.

Before we leave the subject of this year's reunion, I want to give special thanks to everyone who made the 2015 reunion so much fun for all of us. I can't possibly name everyone who contributed, but I want to give special thanks to Sharon Woodhouse who handled all of the registrations and made most of the arrangements for the past two years. It's a huge job! I also want to commend Sharon and her husband Gregg, Connie Houseweart, and Dave Hilner, who arrived a few days early the past two years to get everything in order before everyone arrived. It's not easy managing a reunion

when you live many miles away, but thanks to the dedication of those four, along with Lisa Benedetti and Bob McGowan, they got the job done.

As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so I have included many in this edition. Thanks to John Roberts, Paul Sanner, and Tiffany Woodhouse for taking pictures and letting me share them with you. I hope I got all the names right. (I think I finally have all the Harrys straight, after two embarrassing flubs in the past year.) If I erred, please let me know.

Best wishes for holiday celebrations that are as joyous and fun as this year's reunion.

~Carroll McGowan  
[chm1423@aol.com](mailto:chm1423@aol.com), 412-341-9219



# 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:

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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Newsletter Subscriptions

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 Marine Division Association** Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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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DUNCAN, OK 73533-2007

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-or-  
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# A Special Christmas Memory

by John McCulloch

*Note from Craig Larson, John McCulloch's son-in-law:*

My father-in-law, John McCulloch, served in the Marines from June 1943 until February 1946. He was a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, HQ Company. John survived a tough beach landing on Guam and then on Okinawa the gruesome fighting in the area of Sugar Loaf Hill. As the war came to an end John was stationed in China at Tsingtao University as preparations were made for the surrender of the Japanese.

James Hallas, in his book "Killing Ground on Okinawa, The Battle for Sugar Loaf Hill," stated "....and so the men who fought at Sugar Loaf hung up their uniforms and got on with their lives.....All carried the memories of Sugar Loaf, though often those memories remained intensely private." Consistent with that statement, John has talked very little about what he experienced in the war. However, one recent Christmas he shared the following story with his family.

I would like to tell you about a very special Christmas. I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Division in the Pacific during World War II. My first two Christmases overseas were just another day because we were busy with other matters.

The Pacific Campaign ended in the fall of 1945. Eventually our division was assigned to go to Tsingtao, China, to assist the surrender of the Japanese military in China. We camped in the dormitories at the Tsingtao University, a big improvement over our housing the past couple years.

The Christmas season of 1945 arrived while we were in Tsingtao. On Christmas Eve we were each treated to two cans of beer, if we wanted them. While we were having our beers, my buddy Mitch Joe John and I decided that if we were going to have a Christmas dinner the next day, we needed to have a Christmas tree.

The big problem - where would we get a tree? Being resourceful Marines we found a solution. There was a reasonable looking evergreen tree just outside the front door of our dormitory. We didn't have much for tools so Joe got his machete and I got my bayonet and we went outside and chopped down that tree. Then we found a mop pail and put the tree trunk in the pail. Using our canteen cups we filled the pail with dirt to hold the tree. We set the tree up in the dining area.

Our next problem - how do we decorate the tree? Remember we were resourceful Marines. We came up with a solution - all those empty beer cans and some medical tape scrounged from our corpsman.



The next day, before our Christmas dinner, the Captain talked to all of us and pointed out that "some Marines" (didn't give out our names) had gotten us a Christmas tree. He asked "How do you all like it?" Everyone stood and clapped.

A couple days later about thirty of us were sitting on the front steps of the dormitory just watching the local Chinese people walk by. One older man stopped and then walked right toward us. When he got close he looked at the empty spot where the tree used to be. I thought that now we were going to be in trouble.

The man spoke fairly good English. He said, "Welcome to China." One of my Marines buddies replied "Thank you sir. Sorry about the tree."

The man replied, "That tree can and will be replaced. It is not important. What is important is that you men had a part in returning our homeland to us from the Japanese military. We can replace that tree but we can never thank you enough for what you have done." Then he turned and walked away. We all had tears in our eyes.

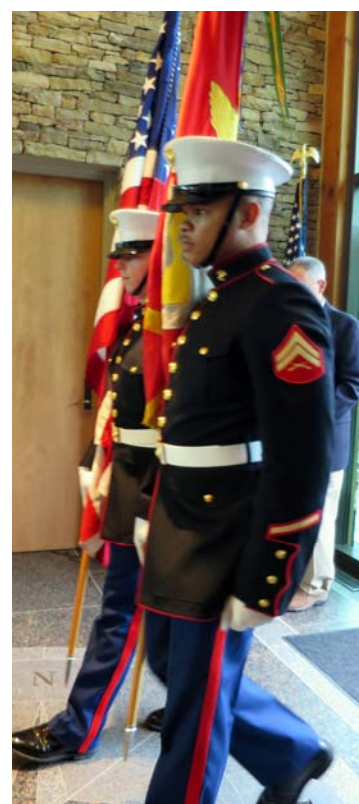
That was one of the best Christmas gifts I have ever received.



O. B. Aasland, Greg Woodhouse,  
Marty Gromley



Karen Kelly, Joan Willauer, Pam Bloustine  
with red roses received from Jean Steed



Louise Lutts, David Mears,  
Tiffany Woodhouse



Missing Man Table - This table is at every BLT 2/3 event, and it is a tradition of other military organizations. It honors the memory of fallen and missing service members. Each item on the table has special meaning. For example, the inverted wine glass symbolizes the inability of the missing man to drink a toast with those present.



Minnie Belle Sanner, Mary Walker



# Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011



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## Striking Sixth Newsletter

**Fall 2014**

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**Reminder: Newsletter dues for 2015 are due on December 31.**

See Message from the Membership Manager on page 24 for more information.



**Mark Your Calendars for the 2015 Reunion**

**August 17 | 23 in Columbus, Ohio**

Hope to see you there! See page 17 for more information.