

New Plaque Honors Sixth Division

Pictured below is the new plaque installed this spring outside the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico honoring the Sixth Marine Division. The plaque includes the words of the Presidential Unit Citation presented to the Division for extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault and capture of Okinawa.

Attendees at the reunion this fall will have an opportunity to see it in person. It's a short walk from the Museum.

Pictured below is Bob McGowan with the plaque. (Don't worry—he had nothing to do with the installation.)

Quantico, Here We Come—October 7-12!

Hope to see you at the 2014 Sixth Marine Division Reunion.

See pages 2, 10, 11 and 12 for more information.

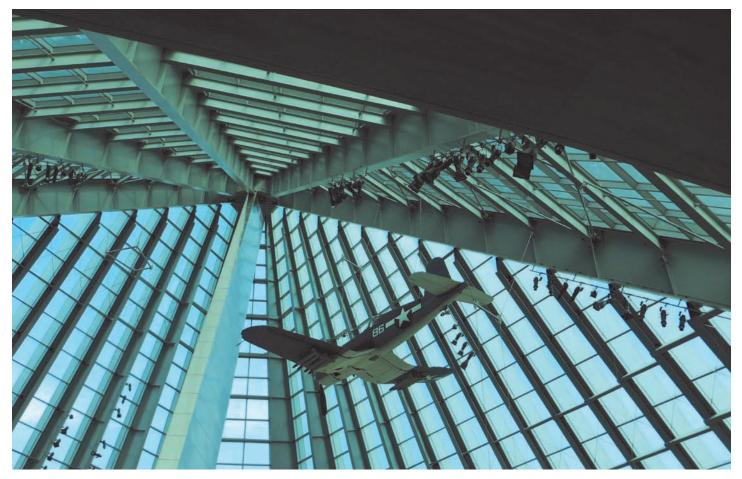
You'll find the Registration Form on pages 13-14.



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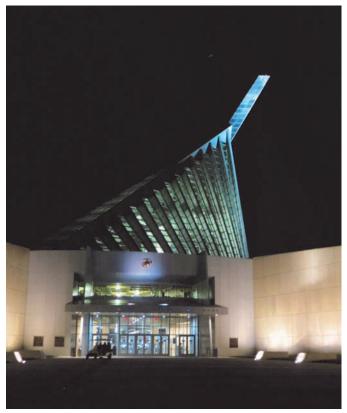
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Summer 2014



It's Almost Time to Take Off...

FOR ANOTHER SIXTH MARINE DIVISION REUNION— MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!



Start making plans for the 2014 Reunion to be held October 7-12 in Quantico, Virginia.

Send in your registration form as soon as you can no later than September 26. You'll find it on pages 13-14.

Make your hotel reservations ASAP — the deadline is September 1. Last year rooms filled up before the deadline, and some folks had to stay at nearby hotels. You can always cancel — up to 24 hours before your arrival date — if you are unable to make it. (See page 11 for more information on the hotel.)

If you have any questions, please feel free to call one of the members of the Planning Committee:

Lisa Benedetti (440) 442-0386 Connie Houseweart (570) 433-4402 Carroll & Bob McGowan (412) 341-9219 Sharon Woodhouse (503) 799-4455



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Annual Dues and Newsletter Subscriptions for 2014 were due at the beginning of the year. Remember — you must pay for the newsletter each year, even if you are a Lifetime Member.

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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.

The subscription rate is \$10 per calendar year.

Membership applications, dues, donations, address changes, and record changes should be mailed with an application (found on page 20) to:

Florence R. Dornan 704 Cooper Court Arlington, TX 76011

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

For more information, please contact Flo at: (817) 275-1552 or sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

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

Hello again to all Wives, Descendants & Marines,

Memorial Day is past, and it was great to see the many ways you Veterans were honored all across the USA for your military service. Our next big holiday is the 4th of July, where we celebrate our Independence from England and the restrictions they put on the people. How blessed we are that our ancestors chose to come to this country to start a new life with freedoms and opportunities they did not have in their old countries. We owe the freedoms and opportunities we have today to our military forces who have kept us free for 238 years. I pray our great freedom continues.



Not long ago we met a man whose father fought in the battle of Iwo Jima, like Harry's brother. He said his father never talked much about his experiences. He also said his father's last 5th Division Reunion was 5 years ago and then the group disbanded because there were not enough men to keep it

going. It makes me sad that so many stories will never be told or recorded and that the Veterans still living, as well as their children and grandchildren, will not have the chance to associate with this this special group of men.

It also makes me grateful to whoever had the idea of continuing the 6th Marine Division reunions and newsletters by including the Sons and Daughters and further descendants in the Association. As a person who loves genealogy, this really hits home with me. Now the memories and stories of the men of the 6th Division can continue on. I hope most of the stories and memories will be written for future generations, especially since the schools are trying to cut out history or change it to be politically correct (not factually correct). For example, in the early 70's when I was substitute teaching, I heard a 35-year old teacher who had been recruited from a southern college say "World War Eleven." Yep, she really did say that; she did not know we use Roman numerals. In the teachers' lunch room, I also heard her friend say, "No wonder the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, after the Americans dropped the atomic bomb on them." Please write, tape or video your father's military history, or if you father is guarding Heaven's Gates, write what you have heard him say. Don't lose the real history.

I know the Marines I have talked to appreciate the efforts of the Sons and Daughters of the Association, and especially that the younger people are continuing to follow the advice and directions they are given by the Marines. This keeps the same enthusiasm and "esprit de corps" as when the Association was started. I think when the Sons and Daughters are helping the Marines, they ask their fathers who are still living or on guard duty on the streets of Heaven, "What would you have me do?"

Sincerely and Semper Fi, Barbara McKnight Ladies Auxiliary President

"I am convinced there is no smarter, handier or more adaptable body of troops (U.S. Marines) in the world... Always spick and span, ready at an instant's notice for duty, the nation owes them a great debt."

Winston Churchill, 1917

Chaplain's Report

I am looking forward to the next reunion.



And now lest we forget... Many heroes of our Marine friends and their wives have been assigned to "Guard the Streets." Before more pass on, I have one in mind. Here is the citation for Ben Prophitt. It reads:

"The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Medal to Private First Class Benjamin F. Prophitt, Unites States Marine Corps Reserve, for service set forth in the following Citation.

"For heroic achievements while serving in a Machine Gun Platoon of Company H, Third Battalion, Twenty Ninth Marines. Sixth Marine Division. in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 31 May 1945. While his company was attacking a strongly-held enemy ridge defended by intense mortar and machine gun fire, Private First Class Prophitt moved forward with his machine gun section across an open field where a fierce fire fight ensued during which several Marines were seriously wounded in the exposed fire-swept area. Although previous attempts to reach the casualties had been unsuccessful, Private First Class Prophitt, realizing their need for immediate medical attention, voluntarily dashed through the open field and joined another Marine in an evacuation of three of the wounded to a position where they could be safely treated. After completing three trips under heavy machine gun fire, he immediately returned to his own machine-gun squad where he assisted in directing effective fire on the enemy, which enabled his company to continue its advance. By his initiative and courage, he aided materially in saving the lives of the wounded, and his unselfish devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Unites States Naval Service."

I remember that day when Ben earned his Bronze Star. John Wells and our squad were off to his right about 50 yards trying to get across an opening in the rice paddies. I had two ammo boxes, a Nip rifle, my M1, and a shirt full of grenades. We went at intervals. When it was my turn to run, I got about half way, slipped on the edge of a paddy, and down I went. John thought I was hit. I knew the Nips would take another shot so I moved the boxes to protect my head, and while the Nips were after Ben, I took off running and made it. John Wells said he never saw someone run that fast loaded down like I was!

Back to the present... I have some concerns about the direction our country is going. I see changes not worthy of our ancestors who fought and died to make this country great. Looks like the giveaways are increasing too fast. Those who will be paying off our national debt are not even born yet. Much of what we see today was tried a long time ago in the cities of Sodom and Gomorra, and look what happened to them.

The answers can be found in the Bible. Keep the commandments, pray regularly, attend your church, elect good leaders, and pray for our country and our constitution. May God guide us all in our decisions.

Your friendly Chaplain, Harry McKnight.

Editor's note: Harry reports that Ben may attend the reunion in October.



Message From the President



The newscaster, Tom Brokaw, called our generation — those of us who came of age during the Great Depression and the second World War — "The Greatest Generation." In his book of the same name, he chronicled the sacrifices we made during war, the hard work we did

raising families and building America, and the integrity and values that underscored our lives. We in the Sixth Marine Division are representative of the Greatest Generation. Our lives are defined by courage, honor, and duty. When we returned to the U.S. after war, we hoped to instill those principles and beliefs in our children and grandchildren.

In Brokaw's book, he recounts a story his mother told him of working in the Post Office after the War when Gordon Larson, a member of the 3rd Marine Division, came in. Mr. Larson was a popular member of the community, usually cheerful and happy, but this day he was aggravated at some teenagers who had gotten especially rowdy the night before, which was Halloween. Mr. Brokaw's mother chided Larson saying, "Oh Gordon, what were *you* doing when *you* were seventeen? He looked at her for a moment and said, "I was landing at Guadalcanal." Then he turned and left the Post Office. I'm sure many of us in the Sixth Marine Division can relate to this story.

Each year when we get together at our reunions, our message lives on. In 1936, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny." We've lived that destiny, and we hope that our example gives the message to future generations to look beyond self-interest, to be humble and frugal and loyal. Most of all, we hope that you will remember the sacrifices that we made, and continue the legacy of patriotism, love of country, and respect for all.

~Sam Petriello Sixth Marine Division

How Many Surgeries Would You Go Through to Become a Marine?

Ladies Auxiliary President Barb McKnight tells us that her husband Harry had hernia surgery in early June. It reminded her of a story about Harry's buddy, Bob McTureous, who earned the Medal of Honor on Okinawa. (See Harry's article in the Summer 2013 Striking Sixth, pages 7-8.)

When Bob first tried to join the Marines during WWII, they discovered he had a hernia and would not let him enlist. Bob worked and saved his money so he could have an operation to repair the hernia. After it healed, he went down again to enlist, and wouldn't you know, they found a hernia on the other side! Again, he was turned down. Again, he worked to save money for another surgery. The doctor that did the first surgery was consulted, and he said that if someone wanted to serve his country that much, he would do the second surgery for free. So Bob McTureous had his operation, and it healed. (Keep in mind that back in 1943, hernia surgery was much more invasive than it is today.) Bob went down to enlist for the third time and finally became a Marine.

Eventually, Bob made it to Okinawa with the Sixth Division. He earned the Medal of Honor on June 7, 1945 when he charged a Japaneseoccupied cave in order to draw enemy fire away from stretcher-bearers, who were retrieving wounded Marines. He then silenced the machine guns with grenades. Sadly, Bob was shot in the stomach while passing one cave, and he died on a hospital ship four days later.

After recalling Bob's two hernia surgeries in 1943, both McKnights decided that Harry's hernia repair was no big deal. Barb reports the surgery took 50 minutes, and after 45 minutes in recovery, Harry was in the car and headed home. Later they were heading down to Orlando to spend a week with their sons and their families.

Wheels On...or...Wheels Off??

by Bill Pierce, Weapons Company, 29th Marines

Our gun was selected to be placed on a small hill facing the looming edifice – the tallest mountain on Okinawa, Mt. Yaetake (yay tack ee). A lone Jap gun, well hidden, was way up in the center of the mountain. We were to go to the back of the small hill, make our way across the right side, and get the gun to the top where a flat place had been found.

The Japanese gun was called 'Pistol Pete' by us Marines. He would open up almost like clockwork around 4:00 or 5:00 pm each day and fire at us Marines strung out and scattered on the approach road on Okinawa's west side. (See page 72 in our "History of the Sixth Marine Division.") The Jap 150mm gun commanded the entire road, which was easily seen from the height the gun had been placed. Many of us wondered – and still wonder even now – how in the heck the Japs got that huge gun up there.

We unhooked from the 4x4 weapons truck that delivered us up the road to the back of the lower hill and unlimbered our 37mm gun. There were seven of us plus our platoon Sgt. John Emmett. We went up a small trail some 6 feet wide, hauling, pushing, and struggling along the trail on the side of the hill, full ammo bags slung over the shield. We were sniped at, and bullets zinged off the backside of the hill. Whoever was firing at us – his aim was high. We prayed it stayed that way. Our Sgt. told us, "Ignore it and keep moving."

Unfortunately, we came to a place in the trail where it had caved in. Or maybe it just was never there. We were missing some 3 feet of the trail!

Some thought we would have to return, but others tried to figure out how to get that gun across the abyss looming in front of us. Someone came up with the idea of taking the wheels off. That was squelched, because if they were off and we wanted out of there, we'd have a gun with no wheels on it. Not too good an idea.

The Sgt. figured it out. Four Marines stay on the side of the hill with the small ropes we had tied to

the gun. The other lucky guys get down the hillside, and as the gun was pulled forward, with hands under the wheel hanging over the trail, pass the wheel to the Marine in front of you! This was not received too well. But down four or us went looking for good footing in order to pass along our 900 pound Betsy from one to the other. Our hands became the trail!

It seemed like it could not be done, but darned if it didn't work. The guys holding the gun on top did most of the work, as we passed the tire from one to the next. Finally we got to the path where it widened, and up we came for a five minute or so rest. Sniping still took place, and once in a while a bullet would strike the side of the hill above us. The sniper evidently never got his expert rifleman's badge, thankfully.

We got the gun up onto the flat place on the hill and found it to be full of rocks. No foxholes could be dug at all, so we piled up the rocks as best we could and placed the gun facing Mt. Yaetake. It was now getting dark, so word was we wait till morning and then we fire at 'Pistol Pete.' If we could see him, or figure out where he was hidden, we'd surely get him. He was up there somewhere.

Morning came, and looking out, we saw Marines attacking Mt. Yaetake. From our cat bird seat on the hill, we had a great view of the attack. Word was: Do not fire...repeat...Do not fire! Rocks galore, and if we fire above the Marines, the loose rocks could be released and cause casualties.

So we now secured the 37mm gun, gathered up whatever we came up with, and rolled the gun down the incline toward a road that circled the bottom of the hill. It sure was easier going downhill! So much for getting 'Pistol Pete.' The attacking Marines got up there from several sides, and old Pete was never heard from again.

One thing for sure...we got enough exercise for the week!

Summer 2014

McGuigan Tells Stories at Library's World War II Program

Jim McGuigan (29th MAR-3-G) was featured in this article from the Delaware County Daily Times on March 15, 2013

The World War II program sponsored by Middletown Township Free Library and local historian Andrew Miller held recently was a great success.

More than 100 residents of Middletown Township and friends of the library were present to see and hear of the exploits of WWII Marine veterans, including George Boyajian, Jim McGuigan, Jim Thomas and Alan MacAuley. They and other Marine and Navy veterans told of the fight on Pacific Islands, at sea, and in the air.

They told of grisly battles where hundreds of Japanese soldiers were piled up in huge stacks after banzai attacks. John Church, a Marine Colonel, was the honored guest speaker. Col. Church is, in his civilian life, a professor of communications and English at Immaculata University as well as a member of the Gen. Smedley D. Butler Detachment of the Marine Corps League.

One Navy pilot described how he managed to put a 1,000-pound bomb through the deck of a Japanese cruiser, sinking it with all hands. For this heroic action, he was awarded the Silver Star for valor. Other veterans told of three years in the Pacific, landing Marines and supplies on Saipan, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

The Gen. Smedley D. Butler Marine Corps League Detachment of Newtown Square provided the bugler, Lloyd Spangler, the Color Guard, and two of the speakers. The program started with Lloyd Spangler playing "To The Colors" and the Marine Corps Hymn. The program concluded with a solemn rendition of taps.

The Marine Corps League was

founded in 1923 by World War I Marine hero and then major general and Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps John A Lejeune. Today the League boasts of a membership in excess of 76,000. Its sponsored programs include Marines Helping Marines, the Youth Physical Fitness Program, the Young Marines of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary, the Toys for Tots program, the Adopt-a-Highway program, and several scholarships.

Gen. Smedley D. Butler was born in West Chester and lived much of his adult life in Newtown Square. He spent many of his final years lecturing throughout the country on behalf of veterans' causes and good government. The general was one of only two Marines awarded two Medals of Honor for heroism in two distinct military actions.

Division Web Site Changing Hands

The SixthMarineDivision.com web site is changing hands. Association members will be responsible for the scope, tone and content of the site, but technological assignments will be managed by a new web master, according to Connie Houseweart, who is adding Site Liaison to her many association assignments.

The site has been managed since

its inception by Lucy Young for the Texas Nova Corporation owned by her and her late husband Andy Young. She is closing the company and has taken an unrelated job following the recent death of her husband.

The association between Lucy and the Division began with the Raiders. Andy's father was a Marine Raider before becoming a member of the Division. He is deceased but because of that connection, it was decided to provide the Raider Association with a free web site. Subsequently, a now deceased member of our association, Jack Dornan, who had been a Raider before he was assigned to the Sixth Division in 1944, arranged for a free site for us.

continued on next page

Division Web Site Changing Hands

continued from previous page

Lucy did not ask for any money for herself or their corporation. She served as web master under these conditions for more than 10 years. Lucy also set up the Division's Facebook pages free of charge. We did provide unasked for donations to the couple.

Bill Pierce, Public Relations Chairman during that period, provided liaison for the Association. Former Striking Sixth Editor Joe Singleton, who is taking on the job of content provider. also worked closely with Lucy. Joe and the new web master, Kevin Hoover, who will work under contract, will be subject to board confirmation.

Connie's early involvement with the transfer has already bourn fruit. She mastered many of the Internet's intricacies within a couple of days. Joe has been a little slower off the mark. but an investigation shows that the site isn't in bad shape. "There is plenty of work to be done, but the planning has begun," he said.

A mission statement has been prepared. Member comment would be appreciated.

Web Site Mission

The purpose of the Sixth Marine Division Internet site is:

- to remember the division and its Marines
- to provide a clearing house of information for its members
- to add to the knowledge of World War II, the US Marine Corps, and sister services then and through to the present time
- to provide recognition and • service to descendants and other Friends of the Division.

Web Site Address

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Sixth Marine Division 2013—2014 Scholarship Recipients

Recipient

Corey J. Aday

David J. Gonzalez

Kevin T. Slocum

Eric J. Roberts

Michael J. Rutledge

Hayley E. Feightner

Michelle A. Roberts

Aaron J. Hansen

John F. Seibert

School Attending

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Madison A. Buffington Red Rocks Community College Concordia University - Wisconsin Kean University Raymond M. Rutledge Kean University **Boston College** University of Dayton Lock Haven University Slippery Rock University The Citadel Texas A&M University

Marine Grandparent

Private First Class Richard Anderson USMC Corporal Fred Abel USMC **Corporal Brice Gonzalez USMC** Corporal Joseph McConville USMC Corporal Joseph McConville USMC **Corporal Thomas Santoro USMC** Private First Class Douglas Gordon USMC Staff Sergeant Richard Roberts USMC (Ret.) Staff Sergeant Richard Roberts USMC (Ret.) Private First Class John Hansen USMC Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Siebert USMC (Ret.)

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. 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.

Welcome To Virginia

OUR HISTORIAN, LAURA LACEY, OFFERS SUGGESTIONS ON THINGS TO DO NEAR QUANTICO

Quantico is approximately an hour and a half south of Washington DC and an hour and a half north of Richmond. The area is surrounded by history, and you can find things to do ten minutes — or two hours — down the road.

Washington DC

There are many things to see and do, and the best part is that a lot of them are free, like the zoo and most of the museums. My favorite thing to do in the city is visit all the monuments lit up at night (be aware: this involves a lot of walking). The Museum of Natural History is great for kids and is free. Arlington National Cemetery (pictured below right) is a must do! Spend the money and take the tour bus — it is worth it. George Washington's home, Mount Vernon is just 15 miles south of D.C.

When visiting DC, be aware that traffic can be horrible – it can take an hour or it can take three hours to get there, depending on the time of day you go. Consider taking advantage of the DC Metro. Or avoid most of the traffic by spending the entire day – leave late morning and head back after dinner. Or just go at night.

Richmond, Virginia

Richmond is about the same distance as D.C. and with a bit less traffic. It was the capital of the Confederacy and the home of Edgar Allen Poe. There are neat things to do there.

Fredericksburg, Virginia

In downtown Fredericksburg you'll find a trolley car ride, horse drawn carriage rides, a visitors center, and nice shops and restaurants. Fredericksburg is full of history from all eras, but especially Colonial and Civil War history. Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania and the Wilderness battlefields are all within 10 to 15 miles of your hotel! The University of Mary Washington is in Fredericksburg, and it has a beautiful campus.

Trolley tours of Fredericksburg last an hour and 15 minutes and go by one in-town battlefield. Tours pick up at the Visitors Center at 706 Caroline Street in Old Town. The trolleys are not wheel chair accessible. Call (540) 898-0737 for more information.

Williamsburg, Virginia

Colonial Williamsburg is approximately an hour and a half southeast of Fredericksburg. It is a great place for kids; however, it is not free. I love this area, but there is much more to do in DC. If you do make the trip to Williamsburg I suggest visiting Jamestown Settlement too.

Please fee free to contact me if you have any questions about visiting the area.

Laura Lacey <u>laurahlacey@gmail.com</u> or (540) 809-4027

Recommended Web Sites

Washington attractions: <u>http://washington.org/topics/</u> free-attractions

DC Metro: http://www.wmata.com/

Arlington Cemetery: http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/

Mount Vernon: http://www.mountvernon.org/

Richmond: http://www.visitrichmondva.com/things-to-do/

Fredericksburg: http://www.visitfred.com/things-to-do/

Williamsburg: http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com

Jamestown: <u>http://historyisfun.org/Jamestown-</u> Settlement.htm



Striking Sixth

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.

Hotel Amenities

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

Making 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 September 1. 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 not able to provide transportation for those flying. However, the Holiday Inn recommends two shuttle services. Rates start at \$60 per person from Reagan and \$75 per person from Dulles. Additional passengers are about \$10.

GM Sedan

• Call 571-221-6960 about a week before leaving.

SuperShuttle

- Reserve online at www.supershuttle.com.
- Or call 800-258-3826.
- Reservations are recommended, but you can also go to the ticket counter at the lower level of either airport and purchase a ticket there.

Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Day Time Event	Cost per Person
Tuesday 10 am – 7 pm Registration Desk	n/a
October 7 10 am – 10 pm Hospitality Room	free*
Wednesday 9 am – 5 pm Registration Desk	n/a
October 8 8 am – 10 pm Hospitality Room	free*
12 noon – 3 pm Lunch, Globe & Laurel Restaurant	\$16.50
Bus Transportation**	\$20.00**
7 pm – 9 pm Executive Board Meeting	n/a
Thursday 9 am – 5 pm Registration Desk	n/a
October 9 8 am – 10 pm Hospitality Room	free*
9 am – 3 pm Marine Corps Base Bus Tour & Lunch	\$25.00
4 pm – 5 pm Potomac Winery Tasting, Hospitality Ro	om \$ 5.00
6 pm – 8 pm BBQ, Holiday Inn Patio	\$20.00
7 pm Manassas Chorale Ensemble (during BE	3Q) free
Friday 9 am – 5 pm Registration Desk	n/a
October 10 8 am – 7 pm Hospitality Room	free*
10 am – 4 pm National Museum of the Marine Corps	free
Bus Transportation**	\$20.00**
(Note: there will be several trips each wa	ay)
7 pm – 9 pm General Meeting	n/a
9 pm AuctionFUNFUNFUN!	n/a
Saturday 9 am – 2 pm Registration Desk	n/a
October 11 8 am – 2 pm Hospitality Room	free*
11 am – 1 pm Ladies Meeting & Luncheon, Holiday Inn	n*** \$17.00
5:30 pm – 7 pm Memorial Service, Semper Fi Chapel, M	useum n/a
7 pm – 11 pm Dinner Banquet, Leatherneck Gallery, M	luseum \$45.00
Bus Transportation to Service and Dinne	er** \$20.00**
(Note: there will be multiple trips back)	
Sunday 11 am Check out	
October 12 Goodbye until 2015	

* There is a \$25.00 registration fee that covers snacks and refreshments in the Hospitality Room. The fee is waived for wives of Sixth Division veterans.

** If you elect to drive yourself to the Globe & Laurel Restaurant on Wednesday and to the Museum on Friday and Saturday, there is no cost for transportation.

*** Lunch includes your choice of Club Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Salad plus dessert and beverages.

Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send with your check NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 26 to:

Sharon Woodhouse 2014 Reunion 20585 SW Genoa Court Aloha, OR 97078-4131

For help in completing this form, please contact Sharon Woodhouse:

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

Checks should be made payable to 6th Marine Division Assn. Please use the reverse side to calculate the amount due.

Name:	Spouse/Guest Nam	e:
Mailing Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
E-Mail:	Phone:	Cell:
Company: Battalion: F	Regiment: Serial N	Number (optional):
Lineal Descendant/of Whom:		
In case of emergency during the reunion:		
Contact:	Relationship:	
Phone(s):		
Attending my 1st Reunion	Will help out	Will bring auction items (donors will be announced; please label your items)
Wheelchair BoundU	se Motorized Wheelchair	Use Cane or Walker
Special Needs (please specify):		
Special Dietary Needs (please specify):		
Will be arriving on (date):	by (mode of transpo	rtation):

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

Please complete the reverse side.

Sixth Division Association Reunion REGISTRATION FORM

Activities and Costs

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

Checks should be made out to: 6th Marine Division Assn. Please send this form along with your check to Sharon Woodhouse at the address on the reverse side.

Registration Fee (to support the Hospitality Room)

6th Division Veteran: \$25.00 (spouses of Veterans are free) \$_____

Wednesday, October 8

Lunch at Globe & Laurel Restaurant: # attending:_____x \$16.50 \$_____

needing bus transportation to Globe & Laurel:_____x \$20.00 \$_____

Thursday, October 9

Marine Base Bus Tour & Lunch: # attending:	_ x \$25.00	\$
Potomac Winery Wine Tasting Fee: # attending:	x \$5.00	\$
BBQ on Hotel Patio: # attending: x \$20.00.		\$

Friday, October 10

TOTAL DUE: \$____

Our Minuet with Death

Author unknown

War is the province of death...and herein, lies the paradox. War forces men for a time to be more intensely alive than they ever were or ever will be again. What soaring elation to eventually be enveloped in the quicksand of daily existence...a life sentence of eight to five...with no parole.

Nobody comes back from war the same person and it never ends for those who fight it. War is a specter which follows them to the grave. No matter what they do afterwards, the apparition lingers and says, "There is nothing compared to me." And this haunting presence is right. Intense emotional attachments flower, and over time, most fade and grow old...mere wisps remind us of bygone days. Yet in the winter of our lives, our grisly companion boldly steps forward into our misty reveries and brings forth with vividness our youthful minuet with death.

When you meet a veteran who has experienced war, you should remember that no matter how ordinary he looks and sounds, he is different from you. He knows things that you do not know because your life does not teach the things he had to learn. You were never asked to kill your fellow man or...to die. You have never emerged a hair's breath from death and experienced the elation of just being alive, nor have you had to endure the presence of death stalking you...day...after day...and for some, even when the danger has long past.



Attack on Sugar Loaf Hill

Gentlemen may cry, Peace, Peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death! ~ Patrick Henry

Summer 2014

From the Historian's Corner

HISTORY OF QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

Whether you know it as Quantico, During the Revolutionary War, Q-town, or the Crossroads of the Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia has a rich history that dates back to the Indians and earliest settlers. The area continues to be important to the country, as well as to the Marine Corps. Today, the area has several assets that make it vital to our nation, including the Marine Corps Base, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico National Cemetery, and the FBI Academy. They each have their own unique history, and since the Association will be spending time in the area this fall, I thought a "brief" might be helpful.

The indigenous people of the region were called Doeg. They spoke Algonquian, and the tribes along the banks of the Potomac were closely tied to each other. The area they inhabited was known as Pamacocack, which was later anglicized to Quantico. In the language of the natives, it means "by a large stream."

The area of Quantico was explored by John Smith as early as 1608, and it has been documented that the Spanish were there forty years earlier. The first English settlers were living in the area by 1654. Quantico's closeness to the Potomac and other waterways, and to early roads, made it a commonly used trade and travel route. Several large plantations were known to have been in the vicinity.

General Rochambeau traveled the "Quantico Road" and seventytwo vessels from the Navy of Virginia harbored in the area. During the War of 1812, British ships threatened the inhabitants, but a fierce storm kept a battle from taking place on the spot. The Civil War brought more war to Quantico, which at the time was known as Evansport. Protection of the waterways and routes to Washington and Richmond kept the area hopping, and the waters were filled with ships carrying supplies, troops and the wounded. Several batteries were billeted at Quantico, and today one can still find remnants of the war on the base.

The town would be officially named Quantico in 1874, at about the time that two railroads converged on the area. A shipyard came to Quantico in 1916, and soon after that, the destiny of Quantico would take a new turn—the Marines landed!

On May 14, 1917, the area known as Quantico became Marine Barracks Quantico, as authorized by the Commandant. Three weeks later there were a thousand Marines stationed there, and within a matter of months tents were replaced by permanent structures. In 1918, Quantico had been officially purchased by the Corps. During the First World bordering the Potomac. It was War, Quantico served as a training base for thousands of

Marines. The Marines had found a new home.

In 1919.



Major General Lejeune ordered the founding of the Marine Officers Training Course, and in 1920 and 1921, respectively, the Field Officers and Company Grade Officers Courses were founded. During the inter-war years, the base continued to expand, the tactics for amphibious warfare were tried and perfected, and aerial combat was tested. This all fit nicely with the new concept of Quantico as being a school for the Marine Corps. In the 1920's, when the Marine Corps Schools were founded, Smedley Butler, Quantico's chief-of-staff, said that the Corps should "make this and the whole Marine Corps into a great university." These words would finally be brought to fruition in 1989 by General Al Gray, Jr. with the opening of the Marine Corps University. The base now encompasses 55,148 acres, and it has continued to grow in response to the Corps and the Nation's needs.

The town is a quaint partner with the base. It sits near Quantico Creek, and in modern times three sides are surrounded by the Marine Corps Base with one side incorporated in 1927 and

continued on next page

From the Historian's Corner

continued from previous page

chartered in 1934. It is the only town that is "surrounded by" a military installation.

Two other important assets of the area, which were previously mentioned, are the Quantico National Cemetery and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The Cemetery was founded in 1983 and is where the Sixth has a monument. The Museum, which opened in November 2006, is a 120,000 square-foot structure that continues to grow and evolve.

The Quantico community continues to add new partners like NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service), which is probably due in part to the location of the FBI Academy at Quantico.

The FBI's partnership with Quantico took off during the gangster era. The FBI needed a place to hone their marksmanship, and Quantico, just thirtyfive miles from D.C., seemed like the perfect location. In 1935 the "Police Training School, the forerunner of the National Academy, was founded. It became the place to instruct agents in a centralized location. After several evolutions, in 1972 the FBI Academy was founded and their expansion of services and schools has been growing ever since. One such program at the Academy is "Hogan's Alley." Developed in 1987, it is a realistic training ground for agents. The FBI website says of the Academy, "... it is not called the West

Point of Law Enforcement for nothing."

The counties of Stafford and Prince William surround one of the nation's most valuable holdings-Quantico. Teddy Roosevelt sat at the hardware store and cracked jokes with the locals. FDR came through the town to board the presidential vacht, as did Truman. Eisenhower liked a Sunday golf game at the golf course on base, and George Bush biked its many trails. More importantly, Marines from every part of the country, including many of you, have trained and learned their craft at Quantico. It has earned its name as the "Cross Roads of the Marine Corps."



Town of Quantico, Virginia, ca. 1920's, from the William D. Steeves Jr. Collection (COLL/4998) at the Marine Corps Archives and Special Collections OFFICIAL USMC PHOTOGRAPH

Sources:

www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ quantico.asp www.quantico.marines.mil/ About/History.aspx www.townofquantico.org www.usmcmuseum.org Town of Quantico brochure

Donation

Dear Mrs. Dornan,

Please accept this check, \$10 for the newsletter and the rest where it is needed most. My dear late wife attended several reunions and enjoyed them. I'm sorry that at 94, poor hearing, poor eyesight and uncooperative joints make it impossible to attend reunions. I have a doctor's appointment in a few hours, and I'm wearing a Marine sweatshirt and regular Marine cap.

Semper Fi, Ken Schloerke N18W6863 Partridge Court Cedarburg, WI 53102-2633

 \star

Cpl. Edward J. Couchon Jr. USMC Medals of Valor/ AMVETS Post Ceremony in Little Ferry, NJ

I am a descendant of Cpl. Edward J. Couchon Jr USMC, who was killed in action on May 10, 1945 on Ryuku Island, Okinawa. He was from Little Ferry, NJ and was attached to C Company, 1st Bn., 22nd Marines, Sixth Marine Division. His parents, who died in 1967 and 1984, were never accorded a ceremony, and they received his Silver Star and Purple Heart medals by mail. Therefore, I am holding a posthumous dedication and presentation of his medals and citations to his two eldest family members (Patrick Riel of Norwich, CT and Elizabeth Couchon Romero of Ringwood, NJ) in a ceremony on Saturday, October 4, 2014 at Peterslidge-Velock VFW Post 809, 100 Main Street, Little Ferry, NJ.

Since Cpl. Couchon was in the Sixth Marine Division, I am extending a formal invitation to your President, Sam Petriello, and President Emeritus, Andy Sinatra. Andy knew and served with Cpl. Couchon, as they were both from northern New Jersey. All Sixth Division Veterans and their families are also welcome to attend.

This event has attracted the attention of numerous veterans groups from Maine to Delaware, and all branches of the military will be represented The presiding branch with ceremonial protocol is the U.S. Marine Corps. We would be honored to have your organization represented with the Sixth Division colors posted.

Capping off this event will be the unveiling of a new AMVETS Post Chapter named Cpl. Edward J. Couchon Jr USMC AM-VETS Post 22. The Post number is significant: 1922 is Cpl. Couchon's birth year, and he was in the 22nd Marines. All Sixth Division Veterans are welcome to become charter members. I can forward an application to anyone who is interested. A board listing deceased veteran's names — from any war or military branch — will be placed in front at the ceremony. To have a name listed, the application must be returned before August 1, 2014, and a donation of \$5 is required. The proceeds will go towards a scholarship named for Cpl. Couchon that will be awarded to the most improved student who has excelled in the Jr. ROTC program at an area high school.

For more information, please contact me using the contact information listed below.

I hope to attend your reunion in Quantico this fall.

Thanks to all Sixth Division Veterans for your service.

Semper Fidelis, David Pelletier Commander/Projected Cpl. Edward J. Couchon Jr. USMC AMVETS Post 22 Little Ferry, NJ couchonamvetspost22nj@ aol.com (617) 352-2789 (201) 641-2789 (VFW Post 809)

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From the Editor

I have just one thing to say — please, please forgive me for putting my husband Bob on the front and back cover of this edition. I do NOT think this newsletter is all about our family.



I wanted the cover to be about the reunion, but I have a limited number of coverworthy pictures of Quantico, and I've used most of them in previous editions. The

new plaque honoring the Sixth Division is reunion-related — and newsworthy. The only picture I have of it is the one Bob had taken when he went down for the installation.

As for the back cover, I just love that picture and wanted to honor the Sixth Marine Division veterans who are in it, not Bob. (Although I am fond of him too!)

I hope to see many of you in Quantico this October.

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

Membership Status

@ June 11, 2014

Regular	1,231
Associate	590
Lineal Descendant	161
Honorary	8
Total Membership	1,990

Newsletter Subscribers

@ June 11, 2014

Paid for 2013	161
Paid for 2014	194
Paid for 2015-2023	141
Honorary Members	8

Message from the Membership Manager



This has been a very quiet time for the Membership Manager's desk, as you can tell by the short New Member list. I did get several phone calls from members asking where their copy of the *Striking Sixth* was, because their buddies had received theirs and were talking about the reunion. Of course, you know why they hadn't received their newsletter and couldn't plan for the

reunion. A check for their 2014 newsletter subscription would arrive soon after. If you wonder if you have paid dues or paid for the newsletter for 2014, don't forget you can look on the label of your newsletter and the information is there.

Gentlemen of the Sixth, if you have not already done so, this would be a good time to sit down with your sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters, and tell them of the unique history of the Sixth Marine Division. Let them know that by joining the Association, they will help continue and support the legacy of the Sixth Marine Division. Those are the young people who will keep the Association alive.

Since I have no other news, you all stay well and enjoy the sounds and smells of summer. You earned it after this past winter.

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

New Members

BALOW, Bryan, ID #6203 Son of Donald L. Balow 6th Marine Division Annual Associate LD Member 464 Blackmoore Run Ayden, NC 28513 (252) 746-8968 Missingmontana12@g-mail.com

CORRECTION: MARTIN, Gillian, ID #6178 Daughter of Kenneth E. Martin Gillmar@att.net

NOEL, Michaela, ID #6202 Great niece of Robert H. Ascher 22nd Mar-3-K Life Associate LD Member 200 Moonefield Drive Smithfield, VA 23430-1606 (757) 365-0586

Donations

Many thanks to those listed below:

DIRECTORY

Titus, David W.

MEMORIAL MARKER FUND

Titus, David W.

NEWSLETTER FUND

Likins, Merle

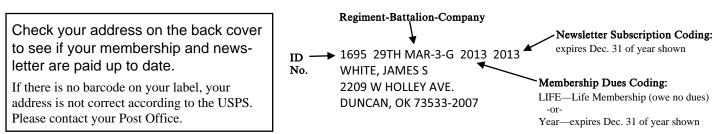
GENERAL FUND

Schloerke, Kenneth Titus, David W.

Membership Application / Change of Address Form

First NameMILast Name	S	pouse Name
Street Address		Apt
City	State	Zip+4
Phone ()E-Mail Address		
CompanyBattalion	Regiment	Other
If this is a change of address, enter your 4 digit ID#, which is on	the left, right above yo	ur name, on the mailing label
Old Street Address		Apt
City	State	Zip+4
If you are applying for membership as an Associate Member, pr	ovide name of relative v	who served with the Sixth Marine Division:
Relative's Name		
His unit within the Division, if known		
Annual dues (\$10 per year)Check if Member or A	ssociate Member	Amount due: \$
Life Membership (\$75)Check if Member or Associ		
Newsletter Subscriptions		
Subscription to the Striking Sixth Newsletter of the Sixth Marin	e Division (\$10 per year	r)Amount due: \$
Annual dues and subscriptions to the newsletter are based on a c		
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 Assoc	iation	Total Enclosed: \$
Mail to: Florence R. Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011		
E-mail: Sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net Phone: (817) 275-1552		
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·		

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.





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.

BOGGS, Edwin K.	2nd Marines	04/25/2014
GILKER, Donald	4th Mar-3	09/08/2012
HASKINS, Dallas	22nd Mar-2-F	11/29/1961
HEUER, Walter F.	4th Mar-HQ-H&S	04/11/2014
LePORE, Augustine (Augie)	6th Engineer Bn-H&S	11/00/2013
MORGAN, Lindsey Ray	22nd Mar-HQ	04/22/1995
PICKERING, Minnie	Wife of Roy Lee Pickering	08/13/2013
THOMPSON, Arthur R.	15th Mar-1-B	04/28/2014
TWIGGER, June E.	Wife of Bill Twigger	01/29/2013
WROBLICKY, Emil	3rd Amphib Bn	03/22/2014



Larry Walker

With regret and sadness we report the death of Larry Walker, Sixth Marine Division Public Relations Officer and son of the late Robert (Bob) Walker, Sr. (29th MAR-2-F). Larry was a regular attendee at Sixth Division reunions, and his presence will be greatly missed this fall. He had a brilliant mind and great sense of humor, and his extensive knowledge of history, especially WWII, impressed everyone who talked with him.

We offer our condolences to Larry's mother and Robert's widow, Mary, pictured with Larry at left.

Summer 2014

FOURTH IN A SERIES: Searching for My Dad's Buddies

by Bob McGowan

In May of 2004, I was among the 100,000 spectators attending the dedication ceremony of the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. When I got home, I resolved to try and connect with any of my Dad's old buddies that were still around. My Dad had died a few years earlier, but my Mum still had the phone numbers of some of the Marines my Dad used to talk to from time to time. My Dad never attended any of the reunions, but he loved to read the newsletters, call his old buddies, and shoot the breeze.

Warren Martin, Ben Prophitt, Ed Novitski, and Dan Cantwell were all with my Dad in H Company, 3/29. I called all four Marines and found them alive and well. Dan Cantwell told me that a bunch of the guys got together once a month at a diner in Norristown, PA, near Philadelphia. I showed up at the next meeting, and Dan introduced me as the son of Sgt. Bob McGowan, a squad leader in H/3/29. Sam Petriello, Andy Sinatra and all the other guys made me feel right at home.

The drill in those days was to roll into the Blue Bell Diner, take over a big table in the side room, and let the sea stories flow, while plates of eggs, bacon and pancakes were passed around. Then we'd head over to Sam's house where his wife Millie and his dog would greet us at the door, and we'd head down to the basement for more good-natured talk. Mille would set out a big plate of fruit, and the guys would exchange interesting articles and old jokes.

In 2005, Dan Cantwell came up with the idea of having a memorial ceremony on the USS New Jersey on April 1, the 60th Anniversary of the invasion of Okinawa. We wrote a couple of letters to the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, hoping to attract some attention. It worked. On April 1, I rode down to the ship with Sam, having no idea what kind of reception we would find. You can imagine how we felt walking up the gangplank and looking up on the deck to see a full contingent of Marines in Dress Blues waiting for us, along with Color Guard, Firing Squad and Bugler, plus a couple of Officers representing the Commandant. Dan Cantwell and Eric Turner made memorable speeches, and later Sam and Andy laid a memorial wreath on the river as taps was played. It was a beautiful day and a first class way to honor the fallen, standing on the decks of a battleship that had participated in that battle so many years ago.

In 2009, my company (Airgas) wanted to do an article about my work with Operation Homefront, a military charity that my wife Carroll and I volunteer with. They wanted a picture of me for the article, so I suggested the photographer take a picture of me and a few of the gang at the East Norriton War Memorial. I don't like getting my picture taken and I hate smiling for the camera, but I can't help smiling when I'm with these guys. In this picture I'm wearing a 2nd MARDIV hat (my own outfit) that Harry Simes gave to me and my Dad's 6th MARDIV belt buckle, which I wear every day to remember him and his buddies.

I feel really blessed to have been part of the Breakfast Club, if only for a short time. Those guys encouraged me to attend my first reunion and get involved with the emerging "Sons and Daughters" organization. Because of my Dad, they accepted me as one of their own. I can honestly say that when I was with those guys, there was no place I'd rather have been in the whole wide world.

Semper Fidelis, Bob McGowan USMC 1973-1976



The Sixth Division Breakfast Club of Norristown, PA in 1997 (above) and in 2009 (right)

Pictured above:

Kneeling in front: John Sutton (HQ/2/22), Al Grassi, Andy Horvath (I/3/15), Walt Gasavage (6th Engr Bn), Sam Petriello (L/4/15), Bill Dwyer (5th MARDIV), Dave Cortright (HQ/6TH MARDIV), Carmen Basil (29th Marines), Dan MacDougall (B/1/22)

Standing in rear: Joe Cheeseman (HQ/3/29), Harry Simes (F/2/29), Ed Cunningham (HQ/3/4), Andy Sinatra (C/1/22), Joe Horgan (F/2/22), Paul Pulich, Forrest Townsend (M/1/4), Warren Martin (H/3/29), Jack Jackson (L/3/22), Ed Novitski (H/3/29), Smokey Stover (HQ/3/22), Dan Cantwell (H/3/29), Ray Uccelletti (K/4/15), Ray Driscoll (I/3/29), Otis Dezern (MT/2/29), Eric Turner (G/3/29), Jay Lutz (H&S/3/22) Sam Petriello thinks the picture was taken by Dick Roberts, who is not in the picture.

Pictured at right:

Walt Gasavage, Dan MacDougall, Andy Sinatra, Sam Petriello, Hank Henry, Bob McGowan, Dan Cantwell, Lou McQuairns



We'd love to hear about other Sixth Division groups that used to meet — or still meet. Send pictures and other information to: Carroll McGowan, chm1423@aol.com or 1423 Pueblo Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228.

Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011



Striking Sixth Newsletter

Summer 2014

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD US POSTAGE PAID Permit # 1040 Leesburg, FL 34748

A Few Members of the Sixth Division Breakfast Club in East Norriton, PA

See story and additional photos on pages 22-23.



Walt Gasavage, Dan MacDougall, Andy Sinatra, Sam Petriello, Bob McGowan, Hank Henry, Dan Cantwell, Lou McQuairns.