

STRIKING

SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 41 No. 1

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2016

Oklahoma Is OK! And So Are Our Reunion Hosts!



2016 REUNION
Embassy Suites
Norman, OK
August 23-28



2016 Reunion Chairs, Pam Bloustine & Joan Willauer

Joan Willauer and I are SO happy to welcome you back to the Great State of Oklahoma this year!

We have booked the Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center in Norman, OK. Everyone gets a suite, and what a great price!! They gave us the government room rate: Single \$89, Double \$109, Triple \$119, Quad \$129. Each suite has a separate bedroom (either two queens or one king) and adjoining small living room with full-size pullout sofa. You'll also

have a kitchenette with a small refrigerator, coffee maker and microwave. Plus free WIFI.

We've hosted many successful veterans' events at this Embassy Suites and our all-around great experience keeps us coming back. The food is always superb, service is outstanding, and the atmosphere provides the perfect place

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Oklahoma is Okay! And So Are Our 2016 Reunion Hosts!

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to relax and visit. The FREE made to order breakfasts will be a great place for us to start our day together. Then let us make the rest of the day fun for you. The daily FREE Happy Hour provided by the hotel gives us a great place to mingle and recap our day before we head to the evening's event or our Hospitality Room. There's also ample space for us to sit comfortably and visit in the hotel Atrium, which includes a Starbucks coffee shop, or at the large indoor pool area.

Being entrusted to take care of our Marines and our families is a great honor for us. We will do our best to keep you entertained and never bored. You'll have time to enjoy camaraderie with old and new friends and share memories of those we have lost. We feel confident your trip to Oklahoma will be full of great memories and good times!

Please make us aware on your Registration Form (pages 15-16) if you have any special needs, and we will do our best to accommodate them.

Also, PLEASE call or write your old friends from the Association who haven't been around lately and encourage them to join us. We are in the center of the country and easy to reach from either coast. The hotel has a huge, free parking lot and is just off I-35.

As shown on the Registration Form, the hotel does NOT have an airport shuttle, but we have planned to pick you up at the airport as we did in



2008. The hotel WILL provide a return shuttle for our group only (on a sign up basis) on Sunday, August 28.

If you have ANY questions about the Registration Form, hotel, directions, or outside activities, please don't hesitate to contact either of us:

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Home 405-292-3184

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email: pamokwm@aol.com

Cell 405-226-5688 (texts ok)

Please join us for this 2016 Reunion. We are looking forward to seeing y'all!

Semper Fi,
Pam Bloustine
SgtMaj USMCR (Ret)



IF YOU ARE GOING...

1. **Make your hotel reservations — call (866) 577-1273 and mention Group Code SMD to get our special rates.**
2. **Send in your Reservation Form — it's on pages 15-16.**
3. **Contact Pam or Joan if you have any questions — see contact info above.**
4. **Make your transportation arrangements.**

KEY DEADLINE — JULY 25

for hotel reservations and Registration Form



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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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Please make checks payable to:

Sixth Marine Division Assn., Inc.

For more information, please contact Flo at:

(817) 275-1552 or
sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

**Pam and Joan are planning a fun-filled
reunion for us in Norman, Oklahoma.**

**Look for all the details on pages 2, 12, 13,
14, 15, 16 and 27.**

Hope you can make it!

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

Harry Bertram: “They’d Just Fight Until You Killed Them”

by Pat Rice, *Daytona Beach News-Journal*, November 11, 2015

If ever there was a hell on earth, it was the Battle of Okinawa.

Harry Bertram lived to tell about it—although for a long time he didn’t talk to his wife, Dolores, and their six children about the horrors he endured. He was 18—really still just a boy—when, as a U.S. Marine, he landed on the Japanese coral island. It was Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945.

“April Fools Day,” Bertram, now 88, said during an interview at his Port Orange home..

Okinawa was the single bloodiest battle of World War II. According to U.S. military records, a total of 12,500 American soldiers died taking Okinawa, which is one-third the size of Rhode Island. Tens of thousands more Americans were wounded. The Japanese lost 77,166 soldiers and an estimated 150,000 civilians, many of whom committed suicide. More people died at Okinawa than when the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

“They’d just fight until you killed them,” Bertram said of the Japanese at Okinawa. “Their mission was to kill as many Americans as they could.”

Bertram was an automatic rifleman with the 6th Marine Division, 29th Infantry regiment, I Company. The regiment began the Okinawa campaign with 3,512 Marines; when the battle of Okinawa ended 82 days later, 2,812 members of the regiment had been killed or wounded.

Bertram remembers being soaked by cold monsoon rains. He often went hungry, partly because the stench of decaying bodies so permeated the air that he couldn’t eat. The noise of battle was constant. He lost normal human feelings.

“You just became numb,” he said. Okinawa was a far cry from Philadelphia, where Bertram grew up. Born in 1926, he spent the first years of World War II as a patriotic teenager. He enjoyed the movies, and one of the films that impressed him was “Guadalcanal Diary” with Anthony Quinn. “That’s what got me interested in the Marines,” he said.

On December 9, 1943—his 17th birthday—Bertram joined the Marines. He went to boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, in February 1944. He trained at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Then he and other Marines took a train across the country to San Diego. They were shipped to the Pacific island of Guadalcanal, where they trained some more. Then, Okinawa.

All told, nearly a quarter-million members of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines took part in the battle. The mission included 1,400 ships, according to military records.

“We landed, no problem,” Bertram said. Their first objective was Yontan Airfield. It was abandoned, with numerous Japa-

nese planes destroyed. Okinawa is a narrow island, about 64 miles long and just 5 to 7 miles across. That first day, the Marines and Army cut the island in half. Then they began moving north and south.

Bertram’s company headed north marching 55 miles in five days. Their mission was to take the city of Yae-Take. The terrain was mountainous with caves and creeks and no paved roads.

“It was rainy, miserably cold,” Bertram said. “We didn’t have a raincoat or anything.”



Marines push toward Yae-Take

Resistance was light at first.

“Just a few snipers, that’s all,” he said. But just before reaching Yae-Take, Bertram’s platoon was crossing a creek when a sniper shot the two men right in front of him in the head.

Yae-Take fell relatively quickly, but not without significant casualties. “We had a skirmish with the Japanese,” Bertram said. “Lost 53 men.”

Fighting was continual and heavy

(continued on next page)

Harry Bertram

(continued from prior page)

for the next 75 days. The 29th Regiment headed to the south end of Okinawa. The worst battle—a week long in May 1945—was for Sugar Loaf Hill. It was a small hill, just 50 feet higher than the surrounding ground and only 300 yards across. But the Japanese were heavily fortified. The Marines charged the hill 13 times before taking it; Bertram took part in two of the charges. By the time Sugar Loaf Hill fell, 2,000 Americans had been killed or wounded.

The constant fighting took a mental toll on the soldiers. “I’d say 30 percent of the guys cracked up,” Bertram said. He simply became numb to normal human feelings.

“If a friend got killed, you’d think, ‘At least it wasn’t me. I’m still alive.’ That’s the attitude you took,” Bertram said. “A lot of pressure for an 18 year old.”

Bertram landed at Okinawa weighing 180 pounds; by the time it was over, he weighed 137 pounds. Not only was food sometimes scarce, but the smell of dead bodies was overpowering. “The smell and the noise, that was the hard thing,” Bertram said.

He witnessed terrible moments that stayed with him. At about 4 a.m. one day, a flare shot up into the air on the edge of where the Marines were encamped. The Marines saw movement on the edge of the camp and opened fire. It turned out to be 20 Japanese women and children. All of them

were killed. “I’ll never forget it,” Bertram said.

In the end, as the Americans pinned the Japanese against the south end of the island, thousands of civilians and soldiers committed suicide rather than be taken alive. Many jumped off cliffs onto the rocks below.

“We pushed them right back into the sea until they were gone,” Bertram said. “We didn’t take any prisoners.”

With substitutes, Bertram’s company included 463 men. When the battle of Okinawa ended, just 53 of them hadn’t been killed or wounded. Of the 44 men in his platoon, Bertram said only he and two others weren’t killed or wounded.

When the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Bertram was relieved. The 6th Marine Division was preparing to invade the main islands of Japan, and he assumed he wouldn’t survive. The atomic bombs “saved a lot of lives on both sides,” he said.

Bertram left the Marines in 1946, then joined the U.S. Air Force and became a navigator. He retired from the service in 1964, then worked for the U.S. Postal Service for another decade before retiring altogether. Along the way, he and Dolores—they married in 1954 and she’s now 83—had five boys and a girl. They visited the area in 1983, liked it,



and have lived in Port Orange since then.

For decades, Bertram did not talk about his experiences on Okinawa. Not to Dolores, not to his children. But one night a few years back, Bertram bolted upright in bed in the middle of the night.

“I was throwing hand grenades,” he said.

A dozen years ago, Bertram and Dolores traveled to an annual reunion of the 6th Marine Division. There, he could share his experiences with other survivors of Okinawa. “It was a big relief,” he said.

A decade ago, Bertram and Dolores went on a cruise that included Okinawa. The last time he saw the island, bullets and bombs had completely denuded the island of vegetation.

“(Now) everything’s nice and green,” Bertram said. It’s amazing how nice it looked.”

Bertram doesn’t regret joining the Marines and fighting against the Japanese and the other axis powers, Germany and Italy. Japan attacked America, and it was his duty to fight. But he doesn’t view war gloriously. Not at all.

“War is stupid,” Bertram said.

From the Historian's Corner

MARINE CORPS EMBLEMS

If one looks at a military exchange parking lot, often you will see a space reserved for the military member of the quarter. Seamen of the quarter for Navy, Airmen of the quarter for Air Force, Solider for Army, but a Marine is a Marine. All branches contain patriots, heroes and men and women of note; however, Marine training and tradition separates it from the other branches. Marine Corps symbols are part of the customs and traditions of the Corps.



The Eagle, Globe and Anchor, or EGA, is one of the very notable symbols of the Marine

Corps. Its origins can be traced to both the British Royal Marines and Continental Marines. In the beginning it was a pewter "fouled anchor." The fouled anchor denotes the connection to the Navy. A fouled anchor, also a British tradition, is an anchor that is tangled. Other versions of the Marine emblem occurred throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. It included the eagle by 1838. The officers gold device also began appearing around 1838. In 1868, the Commandant, Brigadier General Jacob Zeilin, appointed a committee to standardize the emblem. After looking at various versions of the device, the committee picked and the Navy approved the EGA stating, "The emblem recom-

mended by this board consists of a globe (showing the Western Hemisphere) intersected by a foul anchor, and surmounted by a spread eagle. On the emblem itself, the device is topped by a ribbon inscribed with the Latin motto 'Semper Fidelis' (Always Faithful), which is the Marine Corps motto. The uniform devices omit the motto ribbon." The globe signifies world service. The original eagle also indicated world service because it was a crested eagle, found world-wide, unlike the bald eagle, which is only found in North America. This was changed at the request of General Shepherd in 1954 when he was the Commandant. The original fouled anchor was part of the emblem and was included because of the Marine Corps' ties to the Navy and because of their amphibious nature.

When General Shepherd altered the emblem in '54 it was to create an official seal for the Corps. The new eagle was depicted with wings displayed, standing upon the Western Hemisphere of the terrestrial globe, and holding in its beak a scroll inscribed "Semper Fidelis" with the hemisphere superimposed on a foul anchor. The seal is displayed on a scarlet background encircled with a Navy blue band edged in a gold rope rim and inscribed "Department of the Navy, United States Marine Corps" in gold letters. Coincident with the approval of this seal by the President, the emblem centered



on the seal was adopted in 1955 as the official Marine Corps Emblem.

There are differences between the officers and the enlisted EGA. The officers' insignia is assembled from four parts: a die-struck silver colored globe with eagle, and gold colored anchor with silver colored fouling rope, and gold colored continents. Due to the more complicated production process, the officer's insignia lacks the island of Cuba. Marine Corps lore later attributed this to the fact that there were no Marine Corps officers involved in the attack on Cuba known as the "Bay of Pigs." The flat black service uniforms for officers and enlisted were originally identical. However, the "Bay of Pigs" lore persisted and a separate black officers' emblem for the service uniform was eventually created.

The current flag for the Marine Corps came into use in 1939. The earliest flags used in 1776 were the Grand Union Flag and the Gadson Flag. During the 1830s and 1840s the flag consist-

Historian's Corner

(continued from prior page)

ed of a white field with gold fringe and had an anchor and eagle. Prior to the 1840s the flag had "To the Shores of Tripoli" across the top. Shortly after the war, it was revised to read, "From Tripoli to the Halls of the Montezuma." Marines during the Civil War fought under different flags since they served in both the Confederate and Union armies. By 1876, the nation was reunited as was the Corps, and Marines carried a modified national flag with "U.S. Marine Corps" embroidered in yellow on the middle red stripe.

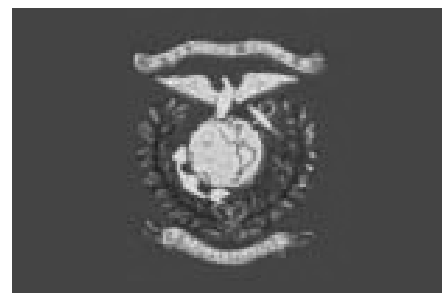
By the eve of WWI, yet another unique flag was carried. It was a blue flag with a laurel wreath



Gadsden Flag

encircling the Marine Corps emblem in the center. A scarlet ribbon above the emblem carried the words "U.S. Marine Corps," while another scarlet ribbon below the emblem carried the motto "Semper Fidelis."

Marine Corps Order No. 4 of 18 April 1925 designated gold and scarlet as the official colors of the U.S. Marine Corps. These colors, however, were not reflected in the official Marine Corps



1914-1939 USMC flag



Current flag

flag until 18 January 1939, when a new flag was officially adopted. That flag is the one that is carried today.

~Laura Lacey

Ladies Auxiliary



At our Ladies meeting last August, Treasurer Pauline Roberts made a proposal to eliminate the office of Treasurer for the Ladies Auxiliary, since

dues are no longer collected and the money raised by our auctions and raffles have been given to the Sixth Marine Division Association. Pauline proposed transferring the funds in our treasury to the Association. The group decided to table this until the 2016 reunion, so we could think about it and get input from Ladies not in attendance.

This led to another proposal: to disband the Ladies Auxiliary, since 1) the funds raised are do-

nated to the Association, 2) wives, widows, and descendants are now permitted to vote in the Association's General Meeting, 3) more than half of our current officers are also officers of the Association, 4) as descendants are now an important part of the Association, there is less need for a separate ladies group, and 5) we can support the Marines just as well by joining them. There was also discussion about the original purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary—to support the Marines—and the desire to keep that tradition alive. This proposal was also tabled until the 2016 reunion.

If we do not disband the Ladies Auxiliary, we need to elect officers for the next two years. I have enjoyed serving as your President, which has enabled me to get to know some wonderful

ladies much better than I would have otherwise. However, it is time to pass this honor and responsibility to another lady.

If you have any thoughts or insights about 1) eliminating the office of Treasurer, 2) disbanding the Ladies Auxiliary, or 3) serving as President or another officer, please share them with our current Vice President, Carroll McGowan, who is also the Editor of this newsletter. You can find her contact information on page 3. I will ask her to share your comments (anonymously if you desire) at the Ladies Luncheon in August.

Praying that everyone keeps in good health so you can join us for the fun reunion that Pam and Joan have planned for us.

Semper Fi,
Barbara McKnight

Happy 97th Birthday!

Greetings Jim [Monbeck],

The shirt and hat are a very big hit with my father. [See picture at right.] I gave them to him on his 97th birthday. Today [USMC birthday 2015] he wore them in celebration. He plans to wear them in the 4th of July parade next year and maybe to the Reunion. Thanks for all your help. The cane in his hand came from Tsingtao, China and is used everyday with pride.

Thanks from both of us,
Cheryl Wyman
and as always Semper Fi from
Percy T. Whitney



"I'm a Marine."

Hello Flo,

Here is the check for this year's newsletter. Please use the remainder to keep the Striking Sixth going to those in need.

The fall issue was absolutely outstanding! President Houseweart said she was in awe of the respect and recognition our Greatest Generation Gyrenes received there in Columbus. They knew these Marines had answered the call to end worldwide evil. Since the end of WWII, we have had a series of undeclared no-win wars in which the end is never resolved, unfortunately. I know of one Service member who has gone on his NINTH deployment to Afghanistan. With less than 1% of eligible young Americans



Percy Whitney looking great at 97

joining our armed forces, is it really fair that so few be asked to do so much?

I have a new book for my Marine library. "Leathernecks: An Illustrated History of the United States Marine Corps" by Merrill Bartlett and Jack Sweetman. In the chapter on WWI, it tells of visiting U.S. well wishers who went to a French-American hospital. One woman came to the bed of a casualty that looked to be from the U.S. She asked, "Are you an American?" "No ma'am," he replied. "I'm a Marine."

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

p.s. Flo, please accept my apologies for being so late this year. I hope to see you in Norman, OK this year.



Problem with Mailing Label

Mrs. Dornan,

First thanks for all you have done for the Association and are doing now.

On my last newsletter I noticed it did not show that my 2016 newsletter was paid. Look for my check dated 8/11/15 which was for 2016. My records show it was cashed. If it went to the Association, leave it be. I am sending another check for 2016.

Thanks,
Clyde F. Baulch
14040 County Road 1558
Ada, OK 74820

Please see the Membership Manager's Message on page 24 for an explanation.



Remembering Jack Dornan

Dear Flo,

Enclosed is my check for donations.

I know it is a bad time of the year for you. Your family can't forget Jack as the 90th came for both of us. Can I send you a copy of Jack's and my Platoon with Fox Company, 4th Regiment? Maybe one of the younger ones would like it. The whole 50 MCH.

Again, thank you for your work.

Gerald Milillo,
3 Willowwood Court
Columbus, NJ 08022

Note from Membership Manager:
Yes, please send the copy – I will appreciate it as well as the kids.

MAIL CALL ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



New Association Member

Dear Flo:

I'm the daughter of Robert Oran Myers who just passed away on October 12, 2015. My son (Brandon) and daughter (Ashley) have reached out to you all about the Sixth Marine Division. Thanks for all the information you've sent them. I will be sending the form in to become a member of the 6th Marine Division Association.

Blessings,
Joy Fischer
home #: 925-447-5130
cell #: 925-337-3533



Still Kicking...But Not as High!

Hi Flo,

Thanks for all the work you do for the 6th Marine Division Association.

Wow – 71 years since Okinawa. I was very lucky to survive it. Now I'm still kicking, but not quite as high as I did then. Hope this note finds you well. I don't know what the 6th would do without you.

Sincerely,
Fred Bennett
1964 S 71st Street
West Allis, WI 53219



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*Over and above

Message from the President



Hi All:

I hope this newsletter finds that everyone has survived the hustle and bustle of the holidays. It's that time of year to begin thinking

about this year's reunion to be held in Norman, OK and hosted by our friends, Joan Willauer and Pam Bloustine. I am looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones. I encourage our lineal descendants (formerly the Sons and Daughters) to join in the fun with the "elders." Hope to see you all there.

Connie

From the Editor



My first Association reunion was Cleveland in 2011, but I was only there for one night. My first complete reunion was Portland in

2012, and it was terrific. A special memory of that reunion is meeting Joe Singleton and beginning the process of taking over the newsletter from him. He made it so easy for me with his patience and intelligence. And his sense of humor was a bonus!

You can imagine how happy I am to be working with Joe again. We have begun working with Connie to improve the Sixth Division website. We don't have much to show for it yet, but we have a vision, thanks to Joe. He has lots of ideas for making it more informa-

tive and user-friendly.

We know young people rely on the intranet as their primary communication source, and over time, the website will become a crucial vehicle for keeping the memory of the Sixth Division alive. So it needs to be much better. This is not a short-term project, but hopefully by the end of the year, you will notice an improvement.

I had too much material for this issue, so some things, such as the update on the colors, will have to wait until the Summer issue. If you haven't already, please send in your newsletter dues for 2016 so you don't miss it.

~ Carroll McGowan

p.s. Thanks to Joe for the first donation to the Website Fund. It costs money to maintain a website on the intranet, even when you use cheap (as in free) labor.

Keeping The Memory of the Striking Sixth Alive

Paying a visit to the reunion last August were two young men with no family ties to the Sixth. Who were they and what were they doing there? Carl Long is a World War II collector who lives in Columbus and learned about the reunion online. Dan Banke is a USMC Captain who got interested in the Sixth when he was stationed in Okinawa. Both jumped at the opportunity to meet Sixth Division Marines in person. The Marines and other reunion attendees enjoyed meeting Carl and Dan so much that I asked them to write something for *Striking Sixth* readers. How nice to learn about people who appreciate what the Sixth Division did. ~CHM

Service, Humility and Integrity

by Carl Long

My interest in WWII began so early in life, I honestly cannot remember its origin. I do remember sneaking out of class in elementary school to hide in the library and read books about the war. (Please keep that amongst us, as my mother would not approve.) Actually, I did more looking at pictures than reading back then. The pictures conveyed such a strong sense of action and range of emotions, that it sparked an unquenchable curiosity that continues to drive me, even all these years later.



Don Honis examines Carl Long's WWII collection as Carl looks on

Over time, my interest has become less about large-scale campaigns, and much more about personal stories of service. In fact, this individual focus is what led me to the 6th Marine Division reunion last year. In the process of re-

searching the service history of a WWII Marine named Neil Morris, I learned that he had served with the 6th Marine Division. He was in K Battery, 4th Battalion, 15th Marine Artillery Regiment, and landed on Okinawa via LST-704. In trying to learn as much as I could about Mr. Morris' service, I discovered the 6th Marine Division website, and ultimately connected with Harry and Barbara McKnight. They were extremely welcoming, and beyond patient with all of my questions. It was in February 2015 when they told me about the reunion coming up in August. While the six-month wait was anguishing at times, it was absolutely worth it. I continue to treasure those days amongst you.

In closing, I will tell you I was a bit anxious when Carroll asked if I would write an article for the

Like No Other Unit: Total Bad Asses

by Dan Banke, Captain USMC



Captain Dan Banke

One of the unique aspects of the Sixth Marine Division is that it is the only Division in Marine Corps history to fight in only one war. And the Striking Sixth is separated by time and memory from the Marines of today. The continued existence of the First through Fourth divisions allows the passing down of unit history from generation to generation of Marines. Their trophies of combat, heritage items, and retired colors hang proudly in modern Headquar-

ters, where Marines see them and are inspired by them every day. This begs the question: "Do the Marines of today remember the 6th Marine Division?" The answer is absolutely, yes. I would like to tell you about one of those Marines.

Staff Sergeant Jason Foust is a 12-year veteran of the Marine Corps. After several years on active duty, he is now assigned to Communications Company, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division. He has what is likely to be the largest single collec-

(continued on next page)

Striking Sixth newsletter. I was concerned I might be unable to find words that adequately expressed my appreciation for what you did for the world in your youth — and, how you continue to live your lives today. I am deeply grateful for the life that you helped create for all of us. You not only served our great nation with distinction, but you continue to live a life of service, humility, and integrity. To you, and all who have worn a uniform and marched in the sun, thank you. While these words seem too small for this moment, they are most certainly from the heart.

Like No Other Unit

(continued from prior page)

tion of 6th Marine Division uniforms anywhere in the world. Preserving the relics and material reminders of the 6th Marine Division is his passion. I asked Jason what makes him study this Division in particular and collect the uniforms and mementos of its veterans. He explains, "My uncle, Wiley Foust, was KIA during WWII. I was told that he was killed on Guam



SSgt Jason Foust

and that he was hit by mortars, became shell shocked and was hit by a Japanese sniper. I never knew what unit he was with. (This was before the internet.) One day my Father found his grave stone. Seeing his name, his unit, and the old Eagle, Globe, and Anchor...I knew I had to get everything I possibly could on G 2/22. I started by getting a few books on Guam and the 6th Marine Division. The more I read about the Striking Sixth, the more the unit drew me in. They were like no other unit; total bad asses! You read stories about Sugar Loaf, and it is combat like modern Marines have never seen. I picked up my first 6th uniform coat and started to research the Marine. I pick up another, then another, and soon I

had five coats in my collection."

Jason puts his extensive collection of 6th Marine Division items to good use. To him, these are valuable, tangible links to history. This past year he brought several uniforms and items to his unit's Marine Corps Ball to share with the other Marines. He also shares them at professional military education classes for Marines, as well as displays for local history and remembrance events. "I do not look at the items in my collection as some type of trophy, but rather, I look at them as a piece of Marine Corps history that I can hold, that I can research and that I can show to the new generation of Marines." Jason continues, "I became my unit's historian and was able to use that position to get after action reports and other source information that was not available to me otherwise. I focus my collection solely on the 6th. I have uniforms ranging from a bandsman who fought on Okinawa, to a few uniforms belonging to some Marines from the 29th who were wounded at Sugar Loaf. Each piece that I pick up in my travels, I cherish and do whatever research I possibly can on it. Then I share it with various social media outlets as well as setting up physical displays for the public and for Ma-



Sixth Marine Division uniforms from Jason's collection

Chaplain's Report



Time flies and we are recovering from a great grand baby's death, my 9 broken ribs, too many funerals, and a growing Taps list that con-

tains good personal Sixth Marine friends. Barb and I are looking forward to Oklahoma and all our relations with good people again. As Chaplain I can only ask each of us to keep the commandments, read your scriptures, say your personal prayers and remember that our God is in charge and ISIS will not win. It might seem like terror is winning but keep your faith in Him who died for each of us. We are His Sheep. And though some stray, He will not abandon us.

Semper Fi.

Harry McKnight

rines. It has truly been a blessing and I am honored to be the custodian of these pieces of our Marine Corps history."

When I told Jason that I was writing an article about present-day Marines who work to remember their elder brothers from the 6th Marine Division, and that I would like to feature him, he told me, "One thing I would like to get across to the families and Leather-necks of the 6th Marine Division is: as long as I am in possession of these items, the 6th Marine Division story will be told and the brave warriors of the Striking 6th will not be forgotten!"

What's In Store in Oklahoma: Sgt. Grit and Much More!

Our time together begins on Tuesday, August 23 at 6 pm, with a "Welcome to Oklahoma" Meet and Greet in our Hospitality Room. The event will be sponsored by local veterans' organizations, so it will be a FREE evening for our 6th Marine Division Association members, guests and families. We will need a head count (see Registration Form on page 15-16) as we will have heavy hors d'oeuvres (enough for a meal), soft drinks, water, beer, wine and cocktails. We'll also enjoy music (please come and play for us, Paul Sanner!). As always, mingling and catching up with everyone will be the highlight of the evening.

We've scheduled really interesting bus tours for Wednesday and Thursday (see facing page for details). Thursday will be capped off with our "Breaking Bread Together" Buffet Dinner at the hotel. Our entertainment for the evening will be local talent, Darci Farmer, a magical little girl gaining popularity across the country with her ventriloquist act. [Note: Darci will be featured in a new Steve Harvey children's variety show, "Little Big Shots," which will run on NBC for eight weeks beginning March 13, though we don't yet know which episode she will be on.] Darci will be joined by Mr. Gary Owen, who is a truly funny entertainer delighting audiences with his own talent for ventriloquism. He will get the audience involved!



On Friday, Sgt Grit's Marine Specialties is back on our agenda by popular demand!! We will transport smalls groups throughout the day, beginning at 9 am. The Ladies Luncheon and Meeting is at 12:00 that day, so

plan accordingly. You are on your own for dinner, but plan to be back for the General Meeting and Auction at 7 pm. Sharon, Connie, Tiffany and friends have made the Auction an entertaining event for everyone while raising funds for the Association. Please consider bringing something for the Auction to support their efforts.

Saturday brings the most important part of our reunion: the Memorial Service. This tradition is

what inspires us to gather each year with our 6th Marine Division Marines and their families. Group and family photos will be taken immediately following the Memorial Service. Last, but certainly not least, is the Grand Banquet, which begins with a Social Hour/Reception at 5:30, followed by Dinner at 6:30. We'll have a guest speaker and very special entertainment you are sure to enjoy.

On Sunday, we'll say goodbye, after what we hope is a happy and healthy reunion, and immediately start looking forward to gathering again in 2017.

Everything You Need to Know About the Embassy Suites



- Address: 2501 Conference Drive, Norman 73069
- Phone: (866) 577-1273
- Website: norman.embassysuites.com
- Room rates: Single \$89, Double \$109, Triple \$119, Quad \$129, plus 13.75% tax
- Group Code: SMD (required to get special rates)
- Reservation cut-off date: July 25 (after this date, rooms can be reserved by availability only)
- Special rates apply 3 days prior to and 3 days after the reunion
- Accessibility: There are just a small number of wheelchair accessible rooms, so if you need one, reserve early.
- Check in time: 3 pm; check out time: 12 noon
- Free parking
- Free WIFI
- Free made to order breakfast buffet
- Daily happy hour with free drinks and snacks
- Fitness room and indoor pool

Field Trips: From Prehistoric Dinosaurs to Modern Tanks

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

- * 45th Infantry Museum
- * Lunch at Lincoln Golf and Country Club
- * Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum

Be ready to hop on the bus at 9:30 at our hotel as we head to the 45th Infantry Museum in Oklahoma City. This museum is recognized nationally for its huge collection of military arms and World War II artifacts. And surrounding the museum is Thunderbird Park, featuring tanks, artillery, personnel carriers, and aircraft from Korea and WWII. If you were here for the 2008 reunion, you'll find plenty of new exhib-

its including Vietnam War items, and they've expanded Thunderbird Park. A dedicated crew of volunteers are excited about our visit.

Next, we'll travel a very short distance by bus to the Lincoln Park Golf Club. A hearty buffet lunch awaits us in our own separate room. Or you can choose outdoor seating overlooking the golf course. Either way, we'll relax and recharge our batteries.

Energized, we'll hop back on the bus for a trip to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. The interactive museum takes you on a chronological self-guided tour of the events on April 19, 1995, when the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was bombed. The story traces a remarkable journey of loss, resilience, justice and hope. Outdoors, the Memorial honoring the victims, survivors, and rescuers is a place of quiet reflection standing on the now-sacred soil where the Murrah Building once stood.

At the 2008 reunion we did not tour this museum, so this will be a new and very worthwhile experience for you.

The bus ride back to the hotel will provide us with another opportunity to enjoy each other's company. And maybe a sing-along! Who will lead us? Connie? Tiffany? Any volunteers? We shall see!



Field of

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

- * Sam Noble OK Museum of Natural History
- * Catered Lunch
- * National Weather Center, NOAA



Our bus will depart the Embassy Suites at 9:30, as we remain in Norman for this day's tour. Our first stop is the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History where you can stroll at your leisure through four billion years of natural history. Colossal dinosaurs will be waiting for you! When you're ready to return to 2016, you can take a break at the coffee shop or browse in the gift shop.

Back on the bus, we'll leave history behind and head to the National Weather Center (NWC).

But first things first, and that means lunch!

Enjoy a catered lunch right here in the Atrium.



They do more than *talk* about the weather at the NWC! More than 550 scientists, meteorologists, climatologists, engineers, students and staff from the University of Oklahoma (OU) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) all work together to improve our understanding of the Earth's atmosphere and severe weather events. We'll get a behind-the-scenes look at OU's School of Meteorology, NWC's enclosed observation deck, NOAA's Storm Prediction Center, the Norman National Weather Service Forecast Office, and the National Severe Storms Laboratory. And maybe find out if lightning ever strikes twice in the same spot??? Then it's back to the hotel for some rest before our group dinner in the hotel that evening. OORAH!!!

Tour prices include all activities, transportation and lunch. Marines and volunteers will assist with getting on and off buses, which will be wheelchair accessible, if needed. Please let us know.

Sixth Marine Division Association 2016 Reunion

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 23

Cost per person

6-9 am	Free Breakfast at Hotel for each hotel guest	
10 am-10 pm	Registration (in Hospitality Room)	
10 am-10 pm	6 th Hospitality Room (open all day)	
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Hotel Complimentary Happy Hour	
6 pm-10 pm	"Welcome to Oklahoma" Meet & Greet - Hospitality Room heavy hors d'oeuvres, music & socializing	FREE

Wednesday, August 24

6-9 am	Free Breakfast at Hotel for each hotel guest	
10 am-5 pm	Registration (in Hospitality Room)	
10 am-10 pm	6 th Hospitality Room (open all day)	
9:30 am-4 pm	Tours of 45th Infantry Museum & Murrah Federal Building Bombing Museum & Memorial; includes full buffet lunch at Lincoln Park Golf & Country Club between sites and bus transportation	\$35.00
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Hotel Complimentary Happy Hour	
7:30 pm-9 pm	Executive Board Meeting, Hotel	

Thursday, August 25

6-9 am	Free Breakfast at Hotel for each hotel guest	
10 am-3 pm	Registration (in Hospitality Room)	
10 am-10 pm	6 th Hospitality Room (open all day)	
9:30 am-4 pm	Tours of Sam Noble History Museum & National Weather Center & NOAA; includes catered lunch served in the Atrium at NOAA and bus transportation	\$20.00
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Hotel Complimentary Happy Hour	
6:30 pm	"Breaking Bread Together" Buffet Dinner at Hotel Entertainment by Darci Farmer & Gary Owen	\$25.00

Friday, August 26

6-9 am	Free Breakfast at Hotel for each hotel guest	
10 am-10 pm	6 th Hospitality Room (open all day)	
9 am-4 pm	Visit to Sgt Grit's Marine Specialties (in groups - prescheduled sign-up times)	FREE
12 pm-2 pm	Ladies' Luncheon & Meeting	\$20.00
5:30 pm-7:30 pm	Hotel Complimentary Happy Hour	
7 pm-10 pm	General Meeting & Auction in Hospitality Room	

Saturday, August 27

6-9 am	Free Breakfast at Hotel for each hotel guest	
10 am	Memorial Service (at Hotel)	
	Group and Family Photos following the Memorial Service	
5:30-6:30 pm	Reception/Social Hour (Cash Bar)	
6:30 pm	GRAND BANQUET — Dinner, Guest Speaker, Installation of Officers & Great Entertainment	\$45.00

Sixth Marine Division Association 2016 Reunion REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please Return This Form by July 25!

Name _____ Spouse/Guest Name _____

If Lineal Descendant, of Whom _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Cell phone (____) _____ Email _____

Company _____ Battalion _____ Regiment _____

Check all that apply to you:

_____ Attending my 1st Reunion _____ Use Cane or Walker

_____ Use Motorized Wheelchair _____ Wheelchair Bound

_____ Special Needs: (please specify) _____

_____ Special Dietary Needs: (please specify) _____

_____ Will be willing to help out _____ Will bring auction item

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS (for our information)

Note: Fly into Will Rogers Airport, Oklahoma City (OKC) for Norman*

Will be arriving in Norman/OKC by _____ on _____
(Mode of Transportation) (Arrival Date)

If traveling by air, please provide your carrier, flight # and arrival time & date:

Do you want us to pick you up? _____ Or have you made other arrangements? _____

Your cell phone number while traveling? (____) _____

Please call Pam at 405-226-5688 if your flight is delayed.

***Note:** We will pick you up at the airport unless you get a rental car or make other arrangements. The hotel does NOT have an airport shuttle. However, the hotel WILL provide transportation back to the airport on Sunday, August 28 for our group. You must sign up for this at the hotel.

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM, Page 2

Tuesday, August 23

- 10 am-10 pm **Registration — in Hospitality Room**
6th Division Veteran: \$25 (spouse free) \$ _____
6th Division Assn Members & Guests: # attending _____ x \$25 = \$ _____
- 6 pm-10 pm **“Welcome to Oklahoma” Meet & Greet — in Hospitality Room** — heavy hors d’oeuvres, music and socializing (no charge) # _____ (for planning purposes)

Wednesday, August 24

- 9:30 am-4 pm **Tour of 45th Infantry Museum and Oklahoma City National Museum and Memorial** — includes full buffet lunch at Lincoln Park Golf & Country Club and bus transportation # _____ x \$35 = \$ _____

Thursday, August 25

- 9:30 am-4 pm **Tour of Sam Noble History Museum and National Weather Center (NOAA)** — includes catered lunch served in the Atrium at NOAA and bus transportation # _____ x \$20 = \$ _____
- 6:30 pm **“Breaking Bread Together” Buffet Dinner at Hotel**
Entertainment by Darci Farmer & Gary Owen # _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Friday, August 26

- 9 am-4 pm **Visit to Sgt Grit's Marine Specialties**
(in groups - prescheduled sign-up times) # _____ (for planning purposes)
- 12 pm-2 pm **Ladies' Luncheon & Meeting** # _____ x \$20 = \$ _____
- 7 pm-10 pm **General Meeting & Auction — Hospitality Room** # _____ (for planning purposes)

Saturday, August 27

- 10 am **Memorial Service — at Hotel** # _____ (for planning purposes)
- 5:30-6:30 pm **Reception/Social Hour (Cash Bar)**
- 6:30 pm **GRAND BANQUET Dinner, Guest Speaker, Installation of Officers & Entertainment**
Please indicate # and choice:
- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| Beef | # _____ x \$45 = \$ _____ |
| Chicken | # _____ x \$45 = \$ _____ |
| Vegetarian | # _____ x \$45 = \$ _____ |

TOTAL ALL EVENTS: \$ _____

Make check payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn. 2016 Reunion

Please complete both pages of this form and mail by July 25 along with your check to:

Joan Willauer - 5901 S. Floyd Cox Drive, Norman, OK 73026-0432

Home Phone (405) 292-3184

Cell Phone (405) 833-4140

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

Marriott Airport, Columbus, Ohio ~ Friday, August 21, 2015

President Connie Houseweart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. President Houseweart appointed Joe Petriello and Tiffany Woodhouse as Sergeant at Arms.

Roll Call

Officers:

Secretary Lisa Benedetti took the roll call:

President — Connie Houseweart	Present
President Elect — Connie Houseweart	Present
Secretary — Lisa Benedetti	Present
Treasurer — Sharon Woodhouse	Present
Chaplain — Harry McKnight	Present
Editor — Carroll McGowan	Present
Judge Advocate — Bob McGowan	Present
Membership Chairman — Jim White	Absent & excused
Public Relations Officer — Jim Monbeck	Absent & excused
Service Officer —	Vacant
Immediate Past President — Sam Petriello	Present
Past President — Connie Houseweart	Present

Unit Directors:

4 th Marines — George Scott	Absent
15 th Marines — Ozzie Aasland	Absent
22 nd Marines	Vacant
29 th Marines — Neil McCallum	Present
6 th Motor Transportation Battalion	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion — David Titus	Absent
6 th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion — Sal Mistretta	Absent
6 th Pioneer Battalion — Marvin Gromley	Absent
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6 th Recon Co. — Joe Singleton	Absent
6 th JASCO	Vacant
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

Secretary Benedetti declared a quorum was in attendance (at least 30 members).

Proof of Meeting Notice:

President Houseweart stated that the Meeting Notice was published in the spring and summer issues of the Striking Sixth. Secretary Benedetti had a copy available.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2014: Ken Wells, seconded by Harry McKnight, moved to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2014 Annual Meeting as published in the spring issue of the Striking Sixth. All in favor, motion carried.

REPORT OF OFFICERS:

President Connie Houseweart: No report.

President Elect — Connie Houseweart: No report

Secretary Lisa Benedetti: The Annual Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2014 will be signed and filed now that they have been approved.

Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse: The report covered the period of August 31, 2014 to August 15, 2015 (attached). Beginning Balance of \$41,843.46, Revenues of \$37,120.80 and Expenses of \$38,702.55. The Ending Balance for total assets was \$40,261.71.

Chaplain Harry McKnight: Chaplain McKnight asked for people to let him know of anyone passing as soon as possible and if he can attend the service he will. He will also request to speak on behalf of the Association.

Editor Carroll McGowan: No report.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan: Bob stated at the Ladies Auxiliary meeting it was brought up to amend the bylaws to allow the wives to vote as Regular Associate Members. He reviewed the two ways this could be done: a motion could be made this evening and there would have to be 100% approval of the members present or an amendment would have to be published in a newsletter prior to the next annual meeting, which would mean it could not be adopted until next year. As it stands now, the wives and widows basically have no rights or say so in the Association.

Sam Petriello, seconded by Neil McCallum, moved to amend Article 5-Members and Dues, Section A.2. of the bylaws to allow the wives and widows of 6th Marine Division Association Regular Members to be Regular Associate Members, which means they could vote. A show of hands was done with 100% in favor, none opposed. *Motion carried. Article 5(A)(2) of the bylaws of the 6th Marine Division Association has been amended.*

Membership Chairman Jim White: Connie reported for Jim White. She reviewed the membership report (attached). Total membership is 1875 members as of August 10, 2015.

Public Relations — Jim Monbeck: No report. Bob stated Jim is doing a great job.

Service Officer - Vacant: No report.

Immediate Past President Sam Petriello: No report.

Past President Connie Houseweart: No report

UNIT DIRECTOR'S' REPORTS: No report.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Nominations Committee: The Nominating Committee was made up of Connie Houseweart, Tiffany Woodhouse and Julie Koontz. Connie presented the slate of officers for 2015-16 as follows:

President —	Connie Houseweart
President Elect —	Connie Houseweart
Secretary —	Lisa Benedetti

continued on next page

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

Treasurer —	Sharon Woodhouse
Chaplain —	Harry McKnight
Editor —	Carroll McGowan
Judge Advocate —	Bob McGowan
Membership Chairman —	Jim White
Public Relations Officer —	Jim Monbeck
Service Officer —	Vacant

Unit Directors Elected:

4 th Marines	George Scott
15 th Marines	Ozzie Aasland
22 nd Marines	Alio Benedetti*
29 th Marines	Neil McCallum
6 th Motor Transportation Battalion	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion	David Titus
6 th Engineering	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta
6 th Pioneer Battalion	Marvin Gromley
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6 th Recon Co.	Joe Singleton
6 th JASCO	George McAfee*
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

2015 Reunion: Harry stated everyone seems to be having a good time. He thanked all the people who went out of their way to help make this reunion great, especially the Columbus Police Department and our city tour guide, Jerry Glick.

Membership: Connie Houseweart stated the Board of Directors approved the Membership Manager's contract for 2016 for Flo Dornan. The amount is \$250 per month. Any updates of address changes should be submitted to Flo. A reminder that subscriptions to the newsletter are separate from membership dues and are due at the end of each December.

Bylaws Committee: No report.

Scholarship Committee: Bob McGowan reported that scholarships are only available to children and grandchildren. Applicants can register at any time, but there is only a short time to apply between January and March. If anyone has any problems, they can call him for help. The names of the current scholarship recipients will be published in the next newsletter. Ken Wells asked why only children and grandchildren can apply for the 6th Division scholarships. Bob stated it is the Marine Corps Scholarship Fund rules, not the 6th Marines. Pauline Roberts noted the scholarships are \$2500 per year and are based on need. She believed the Fund made an exception to allow grandchildren to apply. Sam Petriello worked on this.

Finance Committee: Connie Houseweart reported the committee met pursuant to Article X (9) of the Bylaws of the Association. The books were reviewed and the committee finds that the financial records and reports are in order.

ELECTIONS:

President Houseweart asked before the vote on each position, if anyone else was interested in any of the positions, as nominations could be taken from the floor.

Ken Wells, seconded by Tiffany Woodhouse, moved to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for the slate presented by the Nominating Committee. All in favor, *motion carried*. The following were elected officers for 2015-16:

President Elect —	Connie Houseweart
Secretary —	Lisa Benedetti
Treasurer —	Sharon Woodhouse
Chaplain —	Harry McKnight
Editor —	Carroll McGowan
Judge Advocate —	Bob McGowan
Membership Chairman —	Jim White
Public Relations Officer —	Jim Monbeck
Service Officer —	Vacant

President Houseweart reviewed the current directors and they were elected as follows with some vacancies being filled*:

Pauline Roberts gave George McAfee a JASCO Director hat that has been passed on to each director.

2016 Nominating Committee: President Houseweart asked for nominations of two members at large to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2016.

Sharon Woodhouse nominated Tiffany Woodhouse and Tiffany Woodhouse nominated Greg Woodhouse. As there were no other nominations, a vote was taken. All in favor, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentations for Reunion 2016:

Sharon Woodhouse stated she and Connie have thought about having all future reunions held in Quantico. The Holiday Inn in Quantico has again offered a rate of \$99.00 with 13% tax for September 20 with the reunion ending on Saturday morning, September 24, 2016. The Chapel would be used again for the Memorial Service and the banquet would be held at the Holiday Inn.

Pam Bloustine, a retired Marine and Honorary Member, stated she and Joan Willauer hosted a reunion in 2008 in Oklahoma City. Joan would like to host it again. They are proposing a reunion in Norman, Oklahoma, a suburb of Oklahoma City for August 22-28, 2016, at the Embassy Suites. It is centrally located. The room rate would be \$83.00 single, \$109.00 double, \$119.00 triple and \$129.00 quad, not including taxes. She reiterated that these are all suites, not just a single room. It has free parking and includes a hearty breakfast. There is happy hour daily in the very large lobby area, which includes free drinks and snacks. There is a full service restaurant along with other restaurants in close proximity. The hotel has all the rooms needed to hold the reunion with all its different events. She distributed a sheet listing various amenities and activities in the area. Marines from Fort Sill will help. The hotel has a shuttle for the area, but not for the airport. However, everyone will be picked up and taken back to the airport, which is about 30 minutes away. There is a lot to do in the area. Helen Simmons asked about flying there. Pam stated one would fly into Oklahoma City and it would be best to come through Dallas or Houston, as those are easy to fly out of. Pam reiterated that they will have people at the airport. Tiffany Wood-

continued on next page

Striking Sixth

2015 Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

house asked if it was a bigger airport so people would not have to traverse the tarmac, as that is hard for the elderly. Pam said she believes everything is at the gates now.

Bob McGowan informed everyone that Regular Members, Regular Associate Members and Associate Members are the only ones who could vote.

A show of hands was taken for each proposal and Norman (29) was chosen as the 2016 Reunion site over Quantico (8).

Bob thanked Pam and Joan for the presentation and stated the reunion there in 2008 was great, so he knows this one will be top notch.

Neil McCallum commented he thinks the Association needs to think about having reunions at a permanent location to save on expenses. He believes it should be seriously addressed either this evening or next year. Bob McGowan agreed

Harry Sanders added if the location is Quantico, perhaps it could be on the base. Bob McGowan explained the committee tried, but space is limited for visitors and cannot be guaranteed, and it also has limited amenities for the reunion, so it would not work.

Pam Bloustine mentioned it should also be thought about to have the reunion in a hotel where the banquet can be held. West coast members should also be considered. Perhaps the reunion could alternate between the west coast and the east coast.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the benediction.

Adjournment 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Lisa Benedetti
Secretary

Attachment 1: Financial Report by Sharon Woodhouse

Sixth Marine Division Association Financial Statement 2014—2015

Beginning Balance August 31, 2014	\$41,843.46
Revenue	37,120.80*
Membership, dues, 2014 reunion, 2015 reunion	
Expenses	38,702.55
Printing of newsletters	\$3,936.05
Membership Manager	3,473.49
2014 Reunion	25,142.60*
2015 Reunion	6,150.41

Ending Balance August 15, 2015 \$40,261.71

*amounts include revenue and expenses for the BLT group with whom we shared the 2014 reunion banquet

Attachment 2: Membership Manager's 2015 Report

August 11, 2015

TO: Jim White, Membership Chairman

FROM: Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

Spring 2016

After removing deceased members, those we have lost and those who have requested to be dropped, we have 1,875 names on the roster. The following is based on those 1,875 names as of August 10, 2015:

Membership:

Regular Life Members	1,151
Regular Annual - Current*	52
Associate Life Members	471
Associate Annual - Current*	14
Associate LD Life Members	124
Associate LD Annual—Current*	49
6 Organizations + 6 Honorary Members	<u>14</u>
Total Membership	1,875

*Current - Dues paid for 2013 to 2020

There are a total of 438 members whose newsletters have been returned by the USPS without a new or forwarding address and 57 members requested to be dropped from the membership because of health or because their friends are gone. The reason so few newsletters have been returned is because we needed to change the wording to "Return Service Requested" and I just recently learned of that change. There are 347 widows who are associate members and 37 are up-to-date on their newsletter subscriptions for 2015 and beyond.

Newsletter Subscriptions:

The following are the number of currently paid subscribers to the newsletter as of August 10, 2015:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016-24</u>
Regular Members	81	76	102
Associate Members	14	19	18
Associate LD Members	19	25	13

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Dornan
Membership Manager

Cc: Connie Houseweart
Lisa Benedetti



If you are going to the reunion this summer and have an old name tag holder from a prior reunion, please bring it with you.

My Time as a Marine — Okinawa

THIRD OF A SERIES BY WATSON CRUMBIE (29th MAR-1-C)

In March 1945 we sailed aboard the USS Leon (APA 48) for Okinawa, stopping at the fleet anchorage at Ulithi Atoll in the Gilbert Islands for a hot beer bust, while a fleet of over 1500 ships assembled for the invasion. The U.S. Navy had assembled 40 aircraft carriers and 18 battleships in addition to destroyers, cruisers, supply ships, and troop ships in what was to be the largest invasion fleet during WWII.

April Fools Joke

Easter Sunday, 1 April 1945. Instead of “D-Day”, it was called “Love Day.” We expected to meet heavy opposition in the landing, but it was “April Fool’s Day” and much to our surprise, the joke was on us. In what is known as the “Damnedest Battlefield,”

there was no sign of the enemy!

Okinawa is 60 miles long and from two to 18 miles wide. The 6th Marine Division was given the task of capturing the northern half of the island. It was a week before we encountered any enemy, and then we were ambushed time and again. The north was mountainous terrain defended by Navy personnel using anti-aircraft weapons as anti-personnel. The anti-aircraft fire bursts were very effective and demoralizing.

A battalion on a mountain behind us had placed their pastel-colored front line markers out, and anything in front of those panels would normally be the enemy. Thus two of our Marine Corsairs fired four rockets at us causing

several casualties. We set off color smoke canisters to indicate we were “friendly.” The pilots must have felt bad, but hopefully they realized it was not their fault.

The USS West Virginia was in direct support of us firing its 16-inch guns with projectiles that weighed three thousand pounds and were so large you could hear and see them as they passed overhead. Other large battleships, such as the USS Missouri, were also in support. We discovered a number of “suicide boats” loaded with explosives intended to explode when they rammed a ship, thus sinking the ship.

I was accepting the surrender of about twenty civilians when one pulled a grenade. He was determined to use it, but I was more determined that he would not, and I wrestled it away from him. It’s possible he intended to use it on himself. On Saipan many civilians jumped to their deaths off cliffs into the ocean because the Japanese had told them we would torture, rape, and kill them. We were trying to prevent that on Okinawa.

It was 14 April when we learned that President Roosevelt had died. We were also told that Russia had declared war on Japan, which raised our morale. It was probably intended to do just that, as Russia did not actually declare war on Japan until August.



Marines wade ashore on Okinawa, April 1, 1945

(continued on next page)

My Time as a Marine

(continued from the previous page)

A Chaplain could be Catholic, Jewish, or Protestant. When a Marine was killed, any one of them could offer last rights or words. They also held church services and communion when possible using an improvised altar or a folding table covered by a cloth. I can remember attending one worship service when mortars began landing close by, but that did not sway the Chaplain and he continued to serve every man communion before ending the service.

One evening, a Jap Zero, whose engine was made by Mitsubishi, flew not more than fifty feet overhead (i.e., real close) with a gull wing Marine Corsair on his tail. The Corsair pilot fired a short burst from his machine guns, and we watched the Jap pilot climb onto the wing of the Zero just before it crashed. It must not have been a kamikaze, as it did not explode. The pilot was still alive, but a Marine assisted him in dying honorably for his Emperor.

Moving South

It took us about two weeks of gorilla fighting to capture the northern half of the island. We were then sent south where the main line of defense had been established across the island.

The southern half of Okinawa was rolling hills with agriculture. Here, 90% of the population lived, including a large population in Naha, the capital city. Scattered among the country side were

tombs built into the hillsides. They were ornate in design with a small walled courtyard in front. They were made of concrete, and the inside was about the size of a small bedroom with stair step-like concrete ledges on which stood ceramic colored urns containing the ashes of loved ones.



traditional tomb on Okinawa

On one occasion the Japs had tunneled between three tombs and were causing heavy casualties with machine guns. I tossed a twenty-pound explosive charge into one, only to have a machine gun return fire. This is when we realized that the tombs were interconnected. We arranged simultaneous attacks on all of the tombs using numerous hand grenades and smoke grenades to locate any undiscovered openings. I condemned the Japanese for the sacrilegious act of using burial tombs.

Assault on Sugar Loaf Hill

The 6th Division zone of action became a triangle of hills about 150 feet high known as Sugar Loaf, Half Moon, and Crescent. They were the anchor to the main Japanese defense line that ran across the narrow part of the is-

land. If they fell, so would the entire Japanese defense system. The Japanese had perfected a near impregnable defense system with interconnected underground tunnels and rooms, complete with electricity. Each hill was capable of protecting the others.

When we attacked, we received fire from not only our front but also from our flanks and our rear. The 22nd Marine Regiment was the first to attack, but they suffered so many casualties that the 29th Regiment relieved them. It was raining, and in one attack I was crawling in the depression of a tank track that was about a foot deep and eighteen inches wide. The tank was drawing a lot of artillery fire, and it was told to back down. Suddenly I found myself about to be crushed by one of our own tanks! I managed to find other protection very quickly.

The Japanese were desperate enough to make banzai attacks (human wave attacks mounted by infantry units), which were costly to both them and us. I was just below the crest of the hill when I looked back to see a large number of bodies of both Marines and Japs littering the battlefield. More were added each day. Some bloated bodies had been there so long they turned black. The stench was nauseating. There were several disabled tanks and amphibious tractors among them. One Marine sat on what he thought was a log. Instead, he

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My Time as a Marine

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discovered it was the charred body of a Jap soldier. Some replacements were killed before I even learned their names. One twin was killed; the other grieved himself to death.

Casualty Tag: "Concussion"

We were trading hand grenades with the Japs near the crest of the hill, trying to hold our position to avoid having to make another costly assault, when there was a large explosion. The next thing I remember is regaining consciousness in a field hospital. My casualty tag read "Concussion." I believe that my foxhole buddy took the brunt of the force (probably from an artillery shell), as he was badly wounded and evacuated to a hospital ship. After I had been hospitalized for 36 hours, I requested a release because I felt guilty watching how overwhelmed the doctors were with badly wounded Marines. Permission was granted, and I returned to the battle just in time to make the final assault on Sugar Loaf in a flanking movement to envelope it. Army tanks from several hundred yards away opened fire on us, killing Lengyl.

We took Sugar Loaf eleven times in ten days. Each assault resulted in several hundred Marine casualties. Companies were reduced to pla-

toons, and platoons were reduced to squads. Sugar Loaf was the bloodiest battle of the Pacific in terms of lives lost per square foot. Three thousand Marines were killed trying to take Sugar Loaf, Half Moon and Crescent. The Japanese lost more than 30,000.

I found myself in a cemetery on a small hill trying to find protection from a Jap machine gun whose bullets were ricocheting off every headstone. It was a very uncomfortable experience as there was no place to avoid the spent bullets or the granite chips from the headstones.

We came upon numerous caves. Every cave was or had been occupied by either civilians or Jap soldiers. I got lice from entering some caves and trying to get civilians to come out. They were told we were barbarians who would rape, torture and kill them. It was hard to convince them otherwise. I sealed several caves with demolition charges after failing to get everyone out. On one occasion we knew we were dealing with Jap soldiers who refused to sur-

render. I fired two bazooka rounds into the cave and afterwards we found fourteen dead Jap soldiers. Most times when I used explosives to seal a cave entrance, we never knew whether there were soldiers or civilians inside or how many. A large number of student nurses died when most refused to come out of a cave.

Monsoon Rains

The monsoon season arrived and made life even more miserable. It rained twelve inches in ten days. The capital city of Naha was our next objective. We had not received training in city fighting, but we soon learned. We used a lot of grenades and captured Naha in one day. We trudged and slipped in the rain and mud, and at night we lay in muddy foxholes. Life was extremely miserable under such conditions. I remember tears rolling down my cheeks as I lay in a foxhole half full of water, with artillery shells landing nearby. There was no other choice but to wait and pray for the rain and artillery to stop.

With the rain and artillery still pounding down upon us, we did what I had previously condemned the Japs for. We opened a tomb and moved the urns to a corner on the top shelf. Six or eight of us could crowd inside where we were out of the rain and safe from the artillery. I am not proud of what we did, but hopefully the urns were returned to their respective places on the shelf. We stayed



6MarDiv demolition crew watches explosive

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My Time as a Marine

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until dark when we had to return to our foxholes as Japs always fought best under the cover of darkness when we did not have air support. The next day I was examining a tomb facing the Jap lines. Inside I found a family of five. They relaxed and smiled when I gave them a chocolate bar and a cigarette. As I rose up to climb back over the embankment to our front lines, a sniper missed my head by no less than an inch, scattering dirt and rock in my face. A really close one!

One evening I talked our Corpsman out of a vial of morphine for a wounded civilian in extreme pain. At first the Jap resisted, thinking it was to kill him, but the next morning he was all smiles motioning for more!

Usually at dusk I set trip flares about seventy-five feet to our front. I had set a trip flare across a trail when a Jap soldier approached to surrender. I straddled the trip wire and indicated for him to step over it, instead he stomped on the wire probably thinking it was attached to an explosive. I was so mad, I considered killing him, but instead he became the only Jap soldier I took prisoner.

Kamikazes Attack

Our position on the right flank reached to the beach, where each evening we watched the kamika-

zes strike the fleet. A kamikaze was a plane with just enough fuel to fly from Japan to Okinawa. It carried one large bomb or gasoline pod to explode and burn upon impact. The pilot's mission was to dive into a troop ship or an aircraft carrier where it would explode and hopefully sink the ship. It was a great honor for the pilots to give their lives for the Emperor. The Navy was losing a ship a day in what is known today as the greatest sea battle in history. We cheered when a plane was shot down before it could do any damage. There was only silence when a plane hit a ship.



USS Bunker Hill hit by Japanese kamikazes, May 1945

After the island had been declared secure from organized resistance, I was on patrol. I approached a dense growth in an open area about twenty feet in diameter when I heard the tap of a Jap grenade. I dropped to the ground expecting to see it coming toward me. Instead two Jap soldiers chose not to kill me, but to die honorably for the emperor. One of them had held a grenade to his chin. The other one was still alive. I shot him using my 45

caliber pistol to allow him to die as he wished. An Okinawa family of five then emerged and ran toward me, and I knew then there was no more enemy present. I was most happy to see they trusted me. A young female had part of her breast destroyed by shrapnel; I sprinkled sulfa powder from my first aid kit and bandaged her wound and sent them to our Battalion Aid Station.

On the beach I met Jack Gordon, one of the two men that I had tried to join the Marines with when I was sixteen. Jack was now with the rocket trucks that

had racks from which multiple rockets were fired in a short time. We talked about home. He had served on a cruiser and I remember him saying that he wished he was back aboard one rather than being there. After returning from patrol the third evening, I learned Jack had been killed that morning by a sniper while firing rock-

ets. It was June 2, the day the island was officially declared secure. He had survived the entire war and was killed on the last day of the last battle of World War II.

It was a thrill to see the Stars and Stripes raised on the southern end of the island! We had no idea at the time this was to be the last battle of World War II.

Next issue: reflections on Okinawa and China

Message from the Membership Manager



Once again it is a new year and it is important that all members have paid for their dues and for the *Striking Sixth* newsletter for 2016 in order to receive the newsletter. Unfortunately, there was a printer error with the last newsletter – the expiration date for the newsletter subscription was not on the label. I received many notes, emails and phone calls from members who had paid for the newsletter

for 2016 and beyond and were concerned because the label showed nothing. In addition, newsletter subscription fees have been coming in slower than in past years and I am concerned that some members did not pay because they weren't sure if they owed money. In an effort to correct a wrong, the Association agreed to send the Spring issue of the *Striking Sixth* to all members who had paid their subscription for 2015. Remember, **this is ONE TIME and the Summer newsletter will be sent ONLY to members who have paid for their 2016 newsletter subscription.** Again, please check your label to be sure you are paid up to date.

COMING SOON TO THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION WEBSITE: Work is in progress to add the list of known living Sixth Marine Division members to the website. Hopefully our members will be able to find the name of someone they remember from long ago and would like to contact for old time sake. It would also be a good time to report those you know who have passed away or moved to a new address. Members who do not report when they move, do not receive the *Striking Sixth* newsletter, as the USPS does not forward third class mail such as the newsletter. The newsletter is returned to me with a notation of "unable to forward" for a charge of 59 cents.

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

MEMBERSHIP STATUS @ February 22, 2016

Regular Members	1,185
Associate Members	771
Lineal Descendants	142
Honorary Members	8
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2,106
(dues paid for 2016-2020)	

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS @ February 22, 2016

Paid for 2016	97
Paid for 2017-2024	196
Honorary Members	8



New Members

FISCHER, Joy, ID #6223
Associate LD Life Member
Daughter of Robert Myers (4th Mar-3)
Spouse: Richard
1113 Farmington Way
Livermore, CA 94550
925-337-3533
Soapsudz@comcast.net

Reminder—Newsletter Subscriptions for 2015 Were Due December 31

Don't forget to send your \$10 annual subscription dues to Flo if you want to continue to receive the newsletter in 2016. Even if you are a life member of the Association, you still need to pay for the newsletter each year.

Annual association dues (also \$10) were also due December 31 if you are not a life member. Please use the form on the facing page and mail to Flo at the address on the form.

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

General Operating Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

Newsletter Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

Website Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

Membership Directory Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

Memorial Marker Fund Contribution.....Donation: \$ _____

Make check payable to The Sixth Marine Division Association Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

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

Please remember: Membership dues are separate from Newsletter subscriptions.

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

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

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

Regiment-Battalion-Company

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DUNCAN, OK 73533-2007

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TAPS

All of us in the Sixth Marine Division Association extend our sympathy to the family and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

AASLAND, Orwald (Ozzie)	15 th Mar-3-H&S	01/08/16
ADKINS, Albert S.	22 nd Mar-2-E	03/10/15
BACKMAN, Thomas E.	6th Marine Division	12/05/15
DAY, Sally A.	Wife of James L. Day	12/06/15
ESSEX, Marilyn	Widow of Martin Essex	01/07/16
FENTON, William A.	22 nd Mar-3-L	12/21/15
HOFFMAN, Edward F.	22 nd Mar-3-L	02/27/15
HORVATH, Andy	15 th Mar-3-I	12/18/15
JOHNSON, Donald	4 th Mar-2-G	09/17/15
JOYNER, Tim	29 th Mar-2-HQ	12/31/15
LENNON, Hugh F.	29 th Mar-1-B	07/12/13
LOWNEY, Robert	29 th Mar-1-C	Unknown
McGOWAN, Frank	15 th Mar-4-H&S	08/16/15
MITCHELL, Dixie	22 nd Mar-6 th Tank-B	08/07/15
MYERS, Robert O.	4 th Mar-3	11/12/15
O'ROURKE, Calvin	22 nd MAR-3-L	12/23/15
STRINGHAM, Louie	Wife of Charlie Stringham	11/00/15
TERRY, Harold M.	22 nd Mar-C	02/05/16
TURPIN, Kenneth	29 th Mar-2-C	05/07/15



Ozzie Aasland is laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery

RIP Ozzie Aasland



O. B. "Ozzie" Aasland passed away January 8, 2016, not long after having a stroke while on a family vacation in Oregon. Ozzie was born in

Butler, SD in 1923 and moved to Oregon with his family in 1935. He started working for the Southern Pacific Railroad after his high school graduation, and with the exception of his World War II service, he never missed a day of work for 42 years! Ozzie married his wife, Naomi, on November 25, 1944, in Oceanside, CA before shipping out on December 26, 1944 for Guadalcanal and later Okinawa. After the Battle of Okinawa and surrender of the Japanese, he served in Tsingtao, China.

Ozzie was preceded in death by his wife; parents; three brothers; son,

Richard; and great-granddaughter, Ashley. He is survived by his daughter, Sharon Woodhouse and her husband, Gregg; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Ozzie will always be remembered for his jokes, easy disposition, and sweet smile. He was a proud Marine and



Ozzie with daughter, Sharon Woodhouse

loved attending Sixth Division reunions. In 2012 he and his family hosted a wonderful reunion in Portland, Oregon. The whole family has been active in the Sixth Marine Division Association. Ozzie was a Unit Director, and Sharon is the Association Treasurer. Sharon, Gregg and their daughter Tiffany worked tirelessly at

the 2013 and 2014 reunions in Quantico, as well as the Portland reunion. Tiffany is well known for looking after her Grandad, selling oodles of raffle tickets, and be-friending everyone who attends the reunions.



Ozzie with granddaughter, Tiffany

Reporting Deaths

Deaths should be reported ASAP to:

Flo Dornan, Membership Manager
817-275-1552

sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

AND

Harry McKnight, Chaplain
614-866-3456

harrym1677@aol.com

More Fun in Oklahoma!

NORMAN

Just 20 miles south of downtown Oklahoma City, Norman is home to the University of Oklahoma (OU) and offers an abundance of attractions, restaurants, and shopping. Our top recommendations:



Miller Historic District

- A stroll through the OU campus takes you to several exhibits and museums, including the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art with works by Van Gogh, Monet, and Ansel Adams. The Bizzell Library is hosting a special exhibit on Galileo.



Bizzell Library on the OU campus

- Close to our hotel, the Riverwind Casino is a local favorite for dining and entertainment. The casino provides FREE transportation to and from the Embassy Suites. Joan goes here occasionally with her lady friends, so check with her for tips on winning!



Riverwind Casino

- For family fun, try local favorites Andy Alligator's Fun Park & Water Park and HeyDay Entertainment.



Bricktown entertainment district

OKLAHOMA CITY

Oklahoma City has something for everyone, including treasure-filled museums, outdoor recreation, and sports venues. Our favorites:

- Head to the River Walk and Bricktown entertainment district for a world of restaurants, cafes, and shops. Even water taxi rides! For fun dining, try *Bricktown Brewery*, *The Mantel Wine Bar and Bistro*, Toby Keith's *I Love This Bar and Grill*, or NBA star Kevin Durant's *KD's*. Or ask any "Okie" for their personal favorite!
- While you're in the Bricktown District, take in a baseball game – the Oklahoma City Dodgers (triple A affiliate of the LA Dodgers) will be playing every night from August 24-31.
- The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum preserves the history and culture of the American West. It is awesome! (We stopped here for lunch at the 2008 reunion but did not tour the museum.)
- Experience Oklahoma's history through it's people at the Oklahoma Hall of Fame at the Gaylord-Pickens Museum. Did you know Mickey Mantle, Will Rogers, Jim Thorpe, and Paul Harvey are from Oklahoma? History buffs will also enjoy the Oklahoma History Center.
- For recreation and adventure, try one of these hot spots: Frontier City, a western-themed amusement park; White Water Bay, the state's largest water park; or the Boathouse District with a huge variety of riversport adventures.



Recommended Websites

visitnorman.com, travelok.com, visitok.com, and welcometobricktown.com

Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011

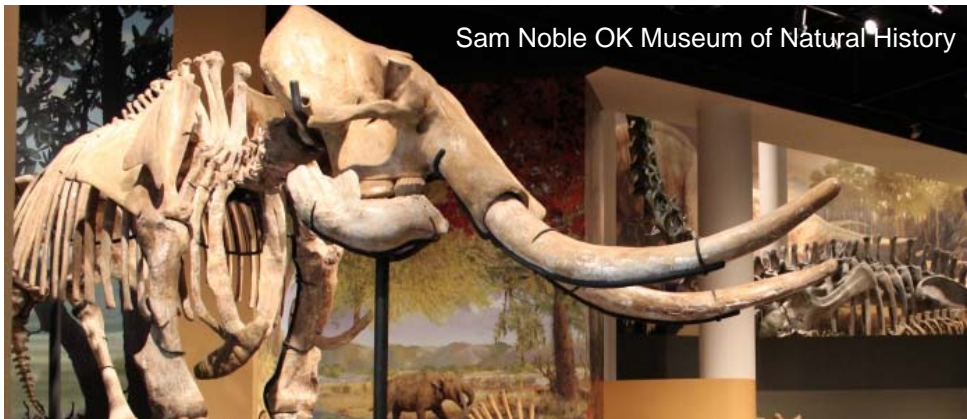


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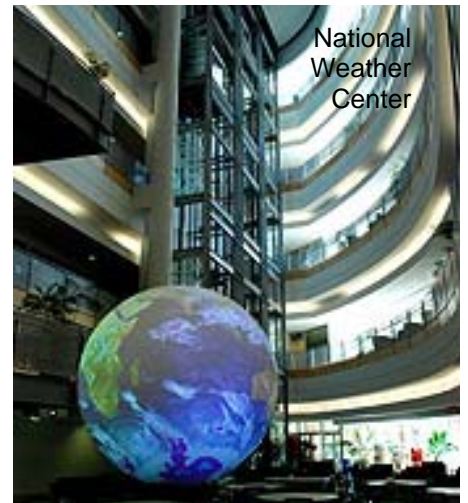
Striking Sixth Newsletter

Spring 2016

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sam Noble OK Museum of Natural History



National
Weather
Center



Oklahoma City National Memorial

2016 REUNION FIELD TRIPS!



45th Infantry Museum