

STRIKING SIXTH

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Fall 2017



from left: Joe Kite, Harry McKnight, William Cloud, Harry Sandlaufer, LtGen James Laster, Clyde Baulch, D.C. Rigby, Neal McCallum

Good Times in Arizona!



Our gracious hosts, Bill and Jean Steed, worked endlessly before and during the reunion to ensure we had a great time.

Some things never change. For instance, it's always fun getting together with our friends from the Sixth Marine Division Association.

We had a fabulous time in Arizona! See pages 2-14 to see why a good time was had by everyone!

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Arizona 2017...a Good Time Was Had By All!!!

- 1) Clyde Baulch, D.C. Rigby, Peter MacDonald, Joe Kite.
- 2) Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse outside the Steed home. Can you believe the size of that cactus?
- 3) The hospitality room
- 4) Linda Dobson, Pfuong Riles, and Patricia Seal vie for best dressed at the grand banquet.
- 5) Ford Dudley plays the bagpipes at the Memorial Service.
- 6) Beautiful desert scenery outside the Musical Instrument Museum
- 7) Posing for a picture after touring the OdySea Aquarium and enjoying a fun lunch:
top row - Jim Rigby, Carroll & Bob McGowan, Bob McCalmont;
bottom row - Pam Bloustine, Dolores Bertram, Flo Dornan, D.C. Rigby, Jane McCalmont



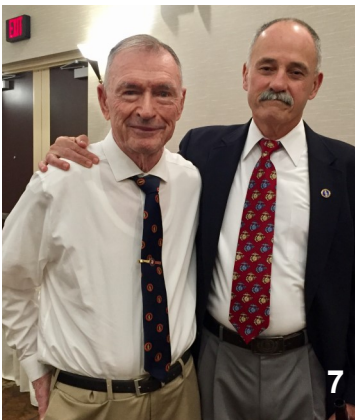


Arizona 2017...a Time for Getting Together with Family



- 1) Melinda, Anita & Lisa Benedetti
- 2) Clyde Baulch, Toni & Craig Cooper. Clyde celebrated his 96th birthday the day after the reunion ended!
- 3) Jim & D.C. Rigby
- 4) Nina, Ethan & Randy Cassity
- 5) Scott & Holly Leininger, Joe W. Kite, Joe L. Kite
- 6) Consuelo Kammerzell, Consuelo Long, Dionicia Mooney
- 7) Ed & Rick Willauer
- 8) Patricia Seal, Linda Dobson
- 9) Bob, Jimmy, Bobby, Amanda, Dolores & Connie Bertram
- 10) Rick Willauer, Mary Brauer, Ed Willauer, Parker Brauer, Joan Willauer

Arizona 2017...a Time for Reuniting with Old Friends



- 1) Sharon Woodhouse and Joe Kite are at it again!
- 2) Joan Willauer and Bill Steed, two Marines who know how to throw a party
- 3) Karen Kelly, Sharon Woodhouse, Pam Bloustine
- 4) Pfung Riles, Jim Monbeck
- 5) Karen Kelly, Pam Bloustine
- 6) Bill Steed, Connie Houseweart, Jean Steed
- 7) Harry McKnight, Bob McGowan
- 8) Connie Houseweart, Janet Russell, Sharon Woodhouse
- 9) David Hilner, Connie Houseweart, Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse



- 1) Jane McCalmont, Dolores Bertram
- 2) Nancy Twigger, Buzz Bissinger, Melinda, Lisa & Anita Benedetti
- 3) Mary Walker, Consuelo Kammerzell, Dionicia Mooney, Consuelo Long
- 4) Patricia Seal, Linda Dobson, Patty Payne, Sharon Woodhouse
- 5) Buzz Bissinger, Patty Payne, Jim Monbeck, Neal McCallum, Pfuong Riles, Julie Monbeck
- 6) Bobbi Felcher, Harry Sandlaufer, Patty Payne
- 7) Ladies Lunch Bunch: standing - Janet Russell, Mary Brauer, Mary Walker, Karen Kelly, Patricia Seal, Sharon Woodhouse, Connie Houseweart, Linda Dobson, Patty Payne, Flo Dornan, Jean Steed, Estella Arnold, Pam Blouistine; sitting - Joan Willauer, Pfuong Riles, Dolores Bertram, Barb McKnight

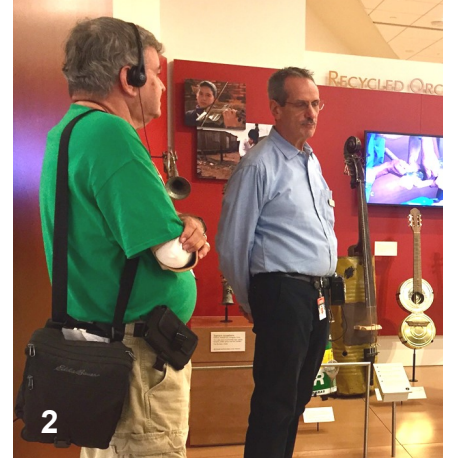


Arizona 2017...a Time for Making New Friends



Musical Instrument Museum and Lunch at the Steed's

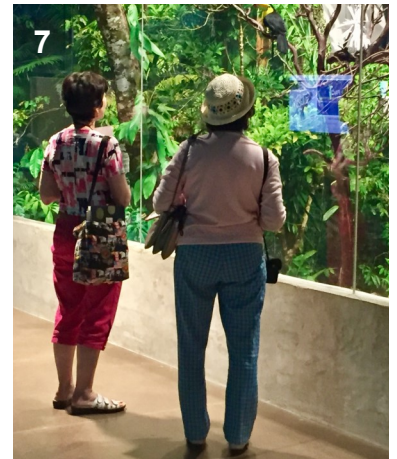
- 1) 6500 instruments from more than 200 countries -- we had a fascinating tour of the world of music.
- 2) Star pupil (and retired teacher), Jim Rigby, got the most correct answers during the guided tour. Way to go, Jim!
- 3) We all gathered at the Steed's home where we saw Bill's USMC museum.
- 4) Bill's collection includes mementos from the careers of Bill, Jean, and Jean's father, Daniel Derechuk (22nd-Mar-G).
- 5) The Steeds generously treated us to a delicious catered lunch in their beautiful home. Pfuong Riles, Bill McCalmont, Neal McCallum, Harry McKnight

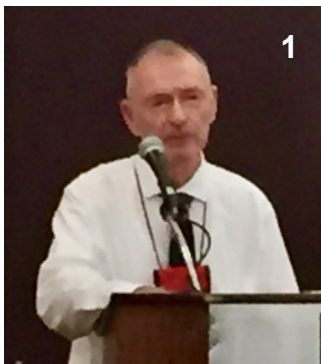


Arizona 2017...a Time for Visiting New Places

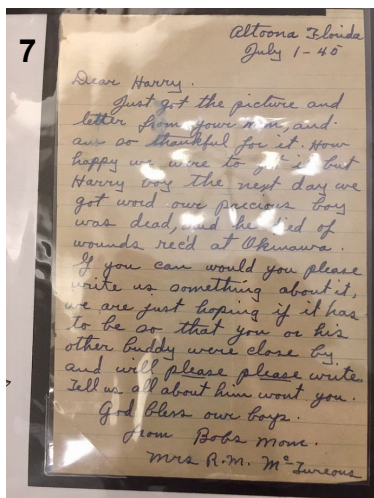
OdySea Aquarium and Group Lunch at Humble Pie

- 6) The aquarium had lots of fish! And beautiful coral too.
- 7) Lisa & Anita Benedetti ponder the wonders of the sea
- 8) D.C. Rigby, Julie Monbeck
- 9) Flo Dornan, Karen Kelly
- 10) Dolores Bertram, Pam Bloustine, Bob McCalmont





Arizona 2017...a Time for Remembering



Memorial Service

- 1) Harry McKnight reads the names.
- 2) Neal McCallum rings the bell.
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) family members of the departed:
top - Buzz Bissinger, Bob Bertram, Lana Sevicuc, James Spence, Estella Arnold

middle - Kate McGuigan, Patty Payne, Patricia Seal, Linda Dobson, Dolores, Amanda, Jimmy & Bobby Bertram
bottom - Nancy Twigger, Melinda, Anita & Lisa Benedetti, Consuelo Kammerzell, Consuelo Long, Dionicia Mooney

- 5) Missing man table

Other Remembrances

- 6) Harry McKnight looking over scrapbooks and photos
- 7) Letter from Harry McKnight's scrapbook: the mother of Medal of Honor winner Bob McTureous thanks Harry for the picture of Bob she received via Harry's mother. She goes on to say that the day after receiving the picture, she learned that Bob was dead.
- 8) In honor of the late Marty Gromley, Connie Houseweart wears his tie and Sharon Woodhouse wears his shirt during the annual meeting and auction.



Arizona 2017...a Time for Sharing Meals



Here's to good food & good friends!

- 1) Parker & Mary Brauer
- 2) Kikue & William Cloud
- 3) Dale & Stephanie Marsh
- 4) Lisa, Anita & Melinda Benedetti
- 5) Bobbi Felcher, Harry Sandlaufer
- 6) Flo Dornan, Harry & Barbara McKnight
- 7) Sharon Woodhouse, Pam Bloustine
- 8) Jim & Julie Monbeck
- 9) Bob McGowan, Randy Cassity
- 10) Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse, Janet Russell





Dancing with the Stars!!!

1-3) William & Kikue Cloud get the party started!

4) Linda Dobson & Mary Brauer excel at line dancing. And laughing!

5) Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse -- they've still got it!



6) Bill Steed and Sharon Woodhouse do too!

7-8) Dancing sensation Rick Willauer takes to the dance floor with Connie Housewheat.

9) If you've got it, flaunt it!

10) Everyone wants to dance with Rick!

Arizona 2017...a Time To Get Up and Dance!



11) You can't keep Joe Kite off the dance floor; shown here with Linda Dobson

12) Rick slows down with mom, Joan Willauer

**And,
the winner is...
Rick Willauer!**



Arizona 2017...Remarks by LtGen James B. Laster

Grand Banquet Keynote Address, August 19, 2017

It is an honor to be here among legends of our Corps and keepers of the faith.

It is an honor to address the members of this association and their families. As a former commander of 3rd battalion, 4th Marines I have a special affinity for the 6th Marine Division. My battalion's lineage has a touchstone on Okinawa while serving as a part of your Division in that incredible 1945 campaign.

I am humbled to be among the warriors and their families and friends of the 6th Marine Division. In preparation to speak to you I did a little homework on the formation of the Division and your campaign on the island of Okinawa. From your Division's formation in September of 1944 on Guadalcanal, you trained for six months before conducting the largest amphibious operation in the Pacific theater with eight assault Divisions.

Your Commanding General, future Commandant Lem Shepherd, galvanized the 4th, 22nd, 29th, and 15th Marine Regiments into a cohesive fighting organization maximizing the combat experience those regiments gained on Guam, Eniwetok, and Saipan. The 6th Marine Division was on the far left flank of landings on the Haguchi Beaches where you gained fame and earned your battle colors after five days of deadly combat against Colonel Udo's Japanese forces to take Mount Yae Take and subsequently the Motobu Peninsula. Fighting throughout

these five days was intense with company and platoon commanders and NCOs falling at a cyclic rate. In this battle alone you suffered 1,000 casualties.

The 6th Marine Division cemented their fighting reputation by seizing that hell hole known as Sugar Loaf Hill in mid-May. The network of defenses between Sugar Loaf, Horseshoe Hill and Half Moon made this deadly complex of hills and bunkers a veritable hell for attacking Marines. The enemy commanded by General Ushijima had constructed an intricate defense against which 22nd and 4th Marines battled for six days – again losing numerous platoon, company and battalion level leaders. Over these six days, feats of valor were measured in yards by squad and platoon level penetrations.

This narrative of 15 May actions by Colonel Joseph Alexander, USMC retired, reflects the level and type of combat for Sugar Loaf Hill: tragedy struck the 1st Battalion, 22nd Marines, on the 15th. A withering Japanese bombardment caught the command group assembled at their observation post planning the next assault. Shellfire killed the commander, Major Thomas J. Myers, and wounded every company commander, as well as the CO and XO of the supporting tank company. Of the death of Major Myers, General Shepherd exclaimed, "It's the greatest single loss the Division has sustained. Myers was an outstanding leader." Major Earl J. Cook, battal-



ion executive officer, took command and continued attack preparations. The division staff released the doleful warning that midnight: "Because of the commanding ground which he occupies, the enemy is able to accurately locate our OPs and CPs. The dangerous practice of permitting unnecessary crowding and exposure in such areas has already had serious consequences." The warning was meaningless. Commanders had to observe the action in order to command. Exposure to interdicted fire was the cost of doing business as an infantry battalion commander. The next afternoon, Lieutenant Colonel Jean W. Moreau, commanding 1/29, received a serious wound when a Japanese shell hit his observation post squarely. Major Robert P. Neuffer, Moreau's exec, assumed command. Several hours later a Japanese shell wounded Major Malcolm "O" Donohoo commanding 3/22. Major George B. Kantner, his exec, took over.

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LtGen James Laster

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The battle continued.

Of note, even MajGen Shepherd was wounded on 16 May during fighting for Sugar Loaf Hill.

Sacrifices to capture Sugar Loaf Hill by 18 May were so great for the 29th and 4th Marines that the 1st Marine Division had to assume responsibility for their area as the momentum was pushed to secure Shuri Heights. Over the following months you slugged through some of the heaviest fighting in our Corps' history until objectives like Kunishi Ridge were secured on 17 June. Over the previous 82 days you were engaged in fighting that cost the opposing forces about 3,000 casualties per day – the heaviest in our Corps history.

6th Marine Division exploits have become a touchstone for generations of Marines to the present. To this day every infantry battalion that deploys to Okinawa conducts battle studies of places like Sugar Loaf and Shuri Ridge to learn from our Corps' heroes.

This legacy continues today as your Marines are currently deployed throughout the globe protecting our national interests. In fact, this evening we have 41,074 Marines deployed in 41 countries around the world. We have persistent presence in each major AOR with three Marine Expeditionary Units of approximately 3,500 personnel distributed across three amphibious ships. We also have two special

purpose MAGTFs deployed in the Middle East and in Europe/Africa supporting the geographical combatant commands in times of crisis. Everything from reinforcing embassies to evacuating Americans and allies. All of these forward deployed formations also work very closely with special operations forces (SOF) that give our nation a tremendous forward deployed and persistent capability.

“We who serve are forever grateful for your sacrifice and example.”

And of course our three MEFs are constantly training and providing forces to the deployed MAGTFs as our Nation's force in readiness. III MEF remains at the pointed end of the spear in Okinawa and throughout the Western Pacific protecting our interests and is on watch to fight tonight if required. Everyone remembers our Brigade that served in Helmand Province Afghanistan... Well, we're back with an Adviser Group tasked to train and advise Afghan soldiers and police. Also our Marine Special Operations Command (MARSOC) now referred to as “Marine Raiders” in honor of our Marine Raiders who fought so gallantly in WWII, have greatly distinguished themselves since their creation in 2006. Over the past decade, our Raiders have been “romping and stomping” bad guys in Afghanistan and Iraq and in many other areas of

the globe conducting combat operations, training military forces friendly to the United States, and conducting sensitive activities to ensure the violent extremists remain abroad and don't come here.

Why, many ask, are Marines like this? Why and what makes Marines different? I would argue as James Bradley did in “Flags of Our Fathers” that all militaries harden their recruits and instill the basics. But the Marine Corps provides its members with a secret weapon. It gives them the unique culture of pride that makes the Marines the world's premier warrior force. “The Navy has its ships, the Air Force has its planes and the Army its detailed doctrine, but culture – values and assumptions that shape its members – is all the Marines have.” They call this culture “esprit de corps.” Alone among the U.S. military services, the Marines have bestowed their name on their enlisted ranks. The Army has Army officers and soldiers, the Navy has naval officers and sailors, the Air Force has Air Force officers and airmen – but the Marines only have Marines.

Being a Marine is a state of mind. It's an experience some have likened more to a calling than a profession. Being a Marine is not a job, not a paycheck. It is not an occupational specialty. It is not male or female, majority or minority. Nor is it a rank insignia. Stars, bars, or chevrons are only indicators of the responsibility and authority we hold at a given time. Rather,

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LtGen James Laster

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being a Marine comes from the eagle, globe, and anchor tattooed on the soul of every one of us who wears the Marine Corps uniform. It is a searing mark on our innermost being, which comes after the rite of passage through boot camp or OCS when a young man or woman is allowed for the first time to say "I am a United States Marine." Unlike physical or psychological scars, which over time will tend to heal and fade in intensity, the eagle, globe and anchor will only grow more defined, more intense the longer you are a Marine."

The 6th Marine Division Association is a physical manifestation of the honor and privilege we who are Marines feel in serving our country and our fellow Marines. Especially today in this time of constant terrorist threats and a Middle East tinkering on the brink of the abyss – our nation needs its Marines to lead the effort to defeat our enemies and protect those they victimize.

Your Corps is in good hands today because of the traditions, history, and legacy established by the heroes who occupy this room. We who serve are forever grateful for your sacrifice and example.

Good evening and God Bless each of you.

Many thanks to LtGen Laster for being our keynote speaker!

Arizona 2017...Reunion Attendees

Estella Arnold
Lana Sevicuc
James Spence
Clyde F. Baulch
Craig Cooper
Toni Baulch Cooper
Anita Benedetti
Lisa Benedetti
Melinda Benedetti
Delores Bertram
Amanda Bertram
Bob Bertram
Bobby Bertram
Connie Bertram
Jimmy Bertram
Harry "Buzz" Bissinger
Pam Bloustine



Randall Cassity
Ethan Cassity
Nina Cassity
William R. Cloud
Kikue Cloud
Dale Marsh
Stephanie Marsh
Su Ann Richardson
*Claude & Carol Culbertson
Linda Dobson
Florence Dornan
*Mike & Sandy Fallon
*David & Jackie Gilbertson
Connie Houseweart
David Hilner
*Naida Ivie
Karen Kelly
Joseph W. Kite, Jr
Joseph L .Kite

Holly Leininger
Scott Leininger
*LtGen James B. Laster
Consuelo Long
Consuelo Kammerzell
Dionicia "Bonne" Mooney
Peter MacDonald and family
Neal McCallum
Phuong Riles
Jane McCalmont
Bob McCalmont
Bob McGowan
Carroll McGowan
Kathryn McGuigan
Thomas Montalbano
Harry McKnight
Barbara McKnight
James Monbeck
Julie Monbeck
Patricia Payne
*John Richardson
D. C. Rigby
Jim Rigby
*Stanley Rosen & Beverly Dajches
*Bruce and Pam Rudolph
Janet Russell
Harry Sandlaufer
Bobbi Felcher
Patricia Seal
Jean Steed
Billy Steed
*Ed and Dawn Trapp
*G-II Varrato II
Mary Walker
Joan Willauer
Mary Brauer
Parker Brauer
Edward B. Willauer Jr.
Richard A. Willauer
Shawn Wilson
Sharon Woodhouse
Gregg Woodhouse
**invited guests*

AUTHOR OF *FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS*, HARRY G. "BUZZ" BISSINGER



As an author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Buzz Bissinger is always looking for new book ideas -- ideas with weight and substance and gravity that also tell a great story. One day, poking around on his computer, Buzz came across an article about a

football game on Guadalcanal (sometimes called the Mosquito Bowl) that was played on Christmas Eve 1944. It was a rough game and tough battle, though perhaps not the most thrilling game ever played -- it ended in a 0-0 tie. But it had drama not found in today's NFL games. The opposing teams were members of the 4th and 29th Regiments of the Sixth Marine Division, who went on to fight -- and in some cases, die -- on Okinawa just 98 days later.

Buzz could not get the game out of his head -- in part because he's always been obsessed with football, and in part because his father was a Marine who fought on Okinawa.

Buzz's father, Harry Gerard Bissinger II, who died in 2001, could never bring himself to talk about the war. Buzz did not even know what division or regiment he was in. But he knew about the bravery of the Marines on Okinawa, and he had a hunch the story of the Marines in the Mosquito Bowl would make a great book.

But would he be able to get enough material to tell the story? As part of his research, he reached out to Joe Singleton and Connie Houseweart earlier this year. They suggested some people he could contact and encouraged him to come to our reunion in Phoenix.

Not long before the reunion, as Buzz was researching his father's service, he made a serendipitous discovery: his father was in the Sixth Division, 29th Regiment. He might have been at the game! Buzz was a lineal descendent! He bought his plane tickets to Phoenix.

By the end of the reunion, where he talked to Sixth Division veterans and family members, Buzz knew he had enough material for the book. He went home to Philadelphia to write up the book proposal.

Buzz believes this is a story that needs to be told. He elaborates, "I envision a book on a grand scale encompassing the horror and sacrifice of a battle that too many Americans have long forgotten, to be published in 2020 on the 75th anniversary of Okinawa. It must be memorialized. I owe it to the fine men who served and to my father. America needs a book like this, to remind us of what made us great and the great cause of freedom."

Editor's Note: We want to thank Buzz for giving everyone at the reunion a copy of *Friday Night Lights*. It's a fascinating study of high school football in Odessa, Texas. More than a sports book; it's a thought-provoking portrait of an American community. Read it -- it's terrific!

NAVAJO CODE TALKER, PETER MACDONALD

Using a secret code based on the their native language, the Navajo code talkers transmitted tactical messages, including battle plans and enemy positions, in the Pacific theater during World War II. The Japanese were never able to break the code, and the code talkers were credited with saving thousands of lives during the war.

Among the code talkers was Peter MacDonald. After the war, Peter earned an electrical engineering



degree at the University of Oklahoma and worked at the Hughes Aircraft Company. He served as Chairman of the Navajo Nation from 1970 to 1986.

A few years ago, Peter met Jean and Bill Steed at a luncheon during Marine Week in Phoenix. Lucky for us, Jean has a good memory! She reached out to Peter and invited him to attend our reunion. She knew the Sixth Marine Division vets and family members would enjoy meeting him. She was right! Peter talked with many of us about his war service and book, *The Last Warrior*.

Editor's Note: See more about the Code Talkers in Historian Laura Lacey's article on pages 20-21 and President Reagan's 1982 Proclamation on page 22.

Arizona 2017...Reunion Donors

So many generous, thoughtful donors this year, bless you, one and all! The Association would like to extend heartfelt gratitude for the amazing donations that so many individuals and organizations provided. To our caring donors, for your special contributions that let our Marines and all attendees so enjoy the 2017 Scottsdale AZ Reunion....a resounding, heartfelt **"THANK YOU!"**

~Jean

Angie Gibbs, VP, Chase Bank

Melissa Mills, Project Manager, Chase Bank

Michael Schmidt, Store Manager, Safeway (Vistancia), Peoria, AZ



Harry Sandlaufer models the Tsingtao hat he donated for the auction

ABC15 Arizona: Danielle Lerner, Co-Ancor of ABC Mornings, and Justin Pazera, Anchor/Reporter*

Embassy Suites Phoenix/Scottsdale AZ, Shelley Stinelli, Conference Service Manager

Youth Trumpet and Taps Corps

Jayne Reed, Bugler

Terry Yahweh, Professional Singer

Ford Dudley, Bag Piper

Desert Mountain Limo

Hallmark Limousine LTD

Quilts For Heroes (Edgewood, MD)

Pam Barker and Bruce Rudolph, "Rockin' Memories"

G-II Varrato II, AZ State Director of Veteran's Association of Real Estate Professionals (VAREP)

Dr. John Richardson

Joe and Arlene Hernandez

LtCol Kip Napier, USMC (Ret)

Pam Bloustine

Joan Willauer

Karen Kelly

Patty Payne

Mary and Parker Brauer

Bob and Carroll McGowan

Harry Sandlaufer

Janet Russell

Sharon and Gregg Woodhouse

Connie Houseweart and Dave Hilner

Consuelo Long Family

Peter MacDonald

Delores Bertram

Bill and Jean Steed

Harry "Buzz" Bissinger

The Amazing "Precious Cargo"

Airport Pick-up Team: Jane and Bob McCalmont, Mary and Parker Brauer, Carroll and Bob McGowan



Lisa Benedetti presents Harry McKnight with one of the beautiful quilts made by the ladies of Quilts for Heroes in Edgewood, MD.

Note: If anyone has any pictures of the Marines with their quilts from the reunion, please send them to Connie Houseweart.



Pam Barker and Bruce Rudolph of Rockin' Memories with LtGen James B. Laster

Very special thanks to Pam Barker and Bruce Rudolph of Rockin' Memories who provided fabulous music -- and a few laughs! -- at the Thursday dinner buffet and Saturday grand banquet. Patriotic standards -- including the Marine Corps Hymn, of course. Plus great oldies. What a fun and entertaining duo! They sure got our folks on their feet (see page 9). So yeah, they really rocked it!

We regret that this list is not complete and may be missing many who donated auction items, cash, etc. There were also many who volunteered in the hospitality room and on field trips, plus all those who purchased auction items. We thank you all so much!

**Here is the URL for the video that ran on the ABC15 News in Phoenix regarding our reunion. Neal McCallum and Harry McKnight were interviewed:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifWi2HXsyGE>

Message from the President



Another successful reunion has come and gone. This time we have Bill and Jean Steed to thank. I personally would like to thank them for all of

their hospitality shown us. We had lots to do and lots to see. A good time was had by all.

I am looking forward to the next reunion being held in Baltimore, MD and hosted by Patty Payne.

Have awesome holidays that are right around the corner. Have a healthy rest of this year and next. And before you know it, we will be in each other's company once again.

Semper Fi,
Connie

New Membership Directory Cancelled

The Board of Directors decided to cancel the new electronic membership directory because:

- 1) The demand was not there. Less than twenty people requested a copy.
- 2) We were advised by an attorney that we needed to get permission from everyone in the directory before it was to be distributed, in order to avoid lawsuits if the information was used inappropriately. This is a real risk with electronic copies, because they are so easily spread.

Many thanks to Joe Kite for his efforts in putting the directory together and seeking legal opinion.

Chaplain's Report



Looking forward to our next reunion. Seems like the world is in turmoil and is not getting much better. It is up to all of us

not to give up but to put our faith in the Lord. If I wanted to give my two cents worth of advice, I would tell our political leaders to put the Marines in charge of our borders, let the

Seabees build the wall, and pull our military out of countries who have been at war since the beginning of time. So my advice to all is: keep the commandments, read the scriptures, say your prayers, help someone who needs help, and don't say or do dumb things. We all make mistakes, but we know we can be forgiven.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

From the Editor



I'll admit I was a little apprehensive about this year's reunion given the slightly smaller number of attendees. I

shouldn't have been. It was just as fun as always, maybe even more so, because I had more time to spend with the people who were there.

It really was a wonderful reunion, and I would like to thank Bill and Jean for their hard work and dedication to making sure everyone had a good time. How fortunate for our nation that they chose to serve their country in the Marine Corps.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Bob and I made plans to head back to the Grand Canyon after 42 years, because our first trip there was spoiled by a silly fight. I am happy to report we got along swimmingly at the Grand Canyon (and everywhere else we

went). :) The scenery was flat out gorgeous. But not flat! We saw mountains, and buttes and mesas and canyons in brilliant shades of red and orange and brown. It was truly spectacular!

Next year, we'll be back on the east coast. Thanks so much to Patty Payne for agreeing to host the reunion in Baltimore. She's already hard at work planning activities. By the way, have you noticed all the hard workers in our group? Do you think it has anything to do with their fathers?

Although it's only four hours from our home in Pittsburgh, I have never been to Baltimore. So Bob and I are looking forward to a new adventure and another opportunity to gather with some of our favorite people in the world.

~ Carroll McGowan

p.s. It's time to pay your newsletter dues for 2018!

Meet Harry Fishback (4th Mar-Medical Co) Born on July 4

by Amanda McElfresh, *The Daily Advertiser*, 30 June 2017

When Harry Fishback was a child, his mother told him people displayed American flags for his birthday.

As he got older, he realized that wasn't quite the case, even though his birthday does fall on July 4.

"It's just another year older," said Fishback, who will celebrate his 92nd birthday on Tuesday.

Fishback has never dwelled on when his birthday falls. He was too busy serving in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and working for more than six decades for Frank's Casing Crew in Lafayette, LA.

As a child and teenager growing up in the Great Depression, Fishback did whatever needed to be done. Raised primarily by his grandparents on a five-acre farm at the corner of Pinhook Road and the Breaux Bridge Highway, he delivered *The Daily Advertiser* on foot during the 1930s.

He also caddied at the municipal golf course, picked cotton and beans and racked pins at the bowling alley.

With World War II raging, Fishback knew it was only a matter of time before he was called up to serve. He enlisted in the military when he was 17 years old.

"I was Navy, but I served in the Marine Corps," he recalled. "I joined the Navy, I went through boot camp and then hospital school, then I was transferred to

school friend led him to what he thought was a temporary stint with Frank's Casing Crew.

He ended up spending nearly 65 years as a Frank's employee, retiring at the end of 2012.

"We always did our best," he said. "We always had a good reputation."

One of Fishback's sons contacted Guinness World Records to see if he was the person who worked for one company the longest. They learned a man in Pennsylvania worked for 69 years for a newspaper, but Fishback may have the longest tenure of anyone at an oil and gas company.

These days, Fishback stays active. He makes a daily trek to a nearby gas station to pick up a newspaper. He's been replacing the wooden boards in his porch. He and his

wife Lou enjoy traveling to casinos in Lake Charles, Marksville and Mississippi.

While his military career is long behind him, Fishback said he still sees value in it for today's young people.

"I think it would be good for anybody," he said. "It teaches you that when you do something, do it right, the best you can."



Harry Fishback at his home in Lafayette, LA, June 30, 2017

the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton. I did field medical training there and I was a combat medic in the Marines."

Fishback's service took him to the end of the Guadalcanal campaign, the Bougainville campaign and Guam. He served for nearly four years, then returned to the United States.

Fishback was working on an oil rig off the Louisiana coast when it caught fire, forcing him out of work. A chance meeting with a

Harry McKnight (29th Mar-3-H) Joins Ohio State ROTC to Celebrate Buckeye Scores -- Push-Ups After Every Point!

by Chris Booker, OSU.EDU, 18 September 2017

If you looked closely at the north end zone of Ohio Stadium Saturday, you might have noticed something a little different when the members of The Ohio State University ROTC program were celebrating another Buckeye score.

Joining the youthful cadets and midshipmen as they did push-ups for every point was nonagenarian Harry McKnight. The Buckeyes scored 38 points against Army this weekend and after every touchdown, field goal and extra point, the 91-year-old McKnight joined the ROTC members as they did their calisthenics.

McKnight, a 1951 graduate of Ohio State, has been working toward this goal since last year. He's been practicing at home during games last season – including wins over Nebraska and Maryland where the Buckeyes scored 62 points back to back.

"The last three games have been pretty easy," he said, referring to the games against Clemson, Indiana and Oklahoma.

McKnight's wife, Barbara, is also an Ohio State graduate. She encouraged him to do push-ups after each score.

"I figured he could do it again this year. You've got to nag him to keep him in shape," Barbara laughed.

McKnight is familiar with Ohio State athletics. He was a pole vaulter on the varsity track team after returning home from World War II.

Before he enrolled at Ohio State, McKnight was a Marine. He fought in the Battle of Okinawa, one of the deadliest campaigns in World War II and one of the last stages of the war. As his service was winding down his thoughts turned to life after the Marines.

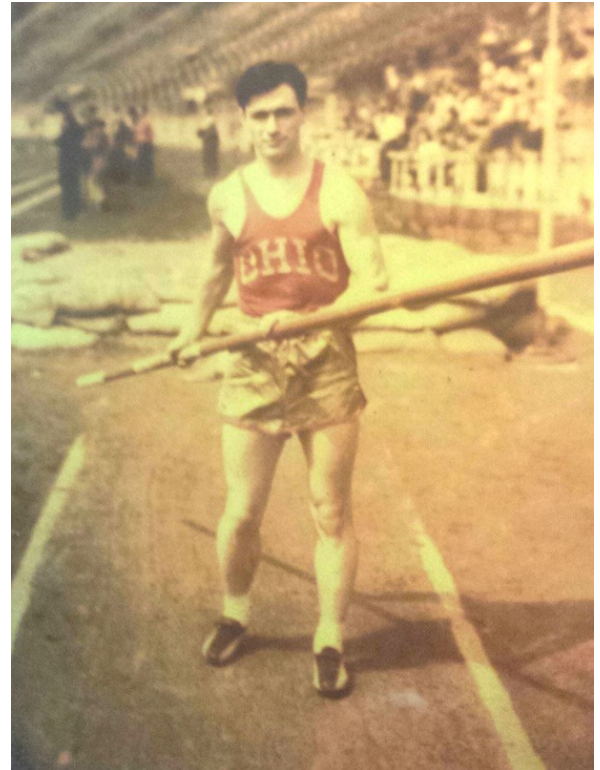
"What am I going to do when I get back home if I make it through this war? I thought about my high school teachers. They made it fun," McKnight said. "I thought, 'that's what I'm going to do.'"

He was a teacher and track coach for East High School and Walnut Ridge High School, working in the Columbus City Schools for 36 years.

McKnight's military career did not end with the Marines on Okinawa. He joined the Air National Guard as an aerial photographer and served for another 23 years.

McKnight said his time in the Marines prepared him for challenges he would face in life.

One lesson he wanted to impart to the ROTC members he joined this weekend was the importance of doing your job right away.



Harry McKnight as a pole vaulter at Ohio State

"The drill instructor gives you something to do, you do it immediately," he said. "Doing immediately what a superior says will keep you out of trouble."



History Major Interested in Talking to Veterans

My name is Scott Davis and I am currently studying history at Eastern Washington University. I plan on obtaining a PhD and teaching history at the college level.

Over the past two years I have been interviewing WWII veterans with the intent of using their stories in the classroom in order to convey a more engaging version of history to students. I am looking for veterans in the Pacific Northwest who would be interested in sitting down and speaking with me about their experiences in the War. I live in Spokane, Washington and I am willing to travel to meet with you if you are interested in speaking with me! You can call me anytime at (509) 944-1553 or email me at

Scottd221@gmail.com. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Thanks for reading this, and I sincerely thank all those who have sacrificed for our freedoms! I hope to hear from you soon, God Bless!

Thanks,
Scott Davis
(509) 944-1553
Scottd221@gmail.com



Corporal Robert Sproul: Mission Accomplished

Hi Carroll,

I'm the guy who contacted you about information on Corporal Robert Sproul a year ago. You directed me to effective people within your organization. I have since presented to his surviving daughter a 60-page booklet with a history of his Marine Corps career, a little chronology, pictures, and old military paperwork. Included was information I had written about my modern boot camp experience ('68) and its relation to WWII Marine Corps recruit training. I also made a shadow box with some of her father's memorabilia displayed in a glass protected case.

I never expected it would take almost eight months to put this booklet together. I am still working as a carpenter/contractor, which limits my free time (and energy) these days. But after a certain time, I began to think constantly about Corporal Sproul and what I could do to find out more information.

Corporal Sproul's daughter could not believe the amount of information that was presented in my booklet, and she was concerned that I had used too much of my time to prepare this story. Her effusive thanks were not necessary. Presenting her with this

history of her Dad was like completing the mission, without anyone getting hit.

In the course of my research I had the precious fortune to contact a living 6th Division Marine, Harry Stanifer. I am still in contact with him, and some of the other 6MarDiv forum people have also contacted him.

Commendations are due to members of the 6th Marine Division Association for their assistance in providing information about Cpl. Sproul's military time line and duty stations. Displaying some of the information from the story in your newsletter was also profound and appreciated.

I'm in a little hollow space now. Researching Corporal Sproul was cathartic and rejuvenating, not only for me, but for the group of military vets that are in my small communication group, all Vietnam era veterans. Damn, the WWII vets are in their mid 90's, Korean Marine veterans are in their upper 80's, and Vietnam vets are turning 70 plus these days.

My own personal thanks to you for replying to my emails and steering me in good directions.

Garent Gunther, USMC '68-70



MAIL CALL



Honored to Attend Reunion

Hi Jean,

I wanted to say thank you for the kindness you advanced to VAREP, and to me, this past week. Your event last evening was one of the most incredible military events I have attended in a very long time.

I had to leave early last evening to get back home to tend to Lori's post-op needs. Nevertheless, my early departure from the festivities in no way diminishes the admiration I have for the brave men of the 6th Marine Division and their families who also supported and endured and endure the commitment of those brave souls.

Thank you again for the invite and for the honor to be part of this incredible celebration of bravery and commitment to these GREAT United States of America.

Very Respectfully,

G-II Varrato II

RET USAF 820th CES **RED**

Horse, Life Time Member "River Rats", REALTOR®, [Arizona State Director VAREP](#) / [VAREP National Legislative Committee Chairman](#)

Editor's note: He set up the VAREP booth that was outside the hospitality room for four days of the reunion.

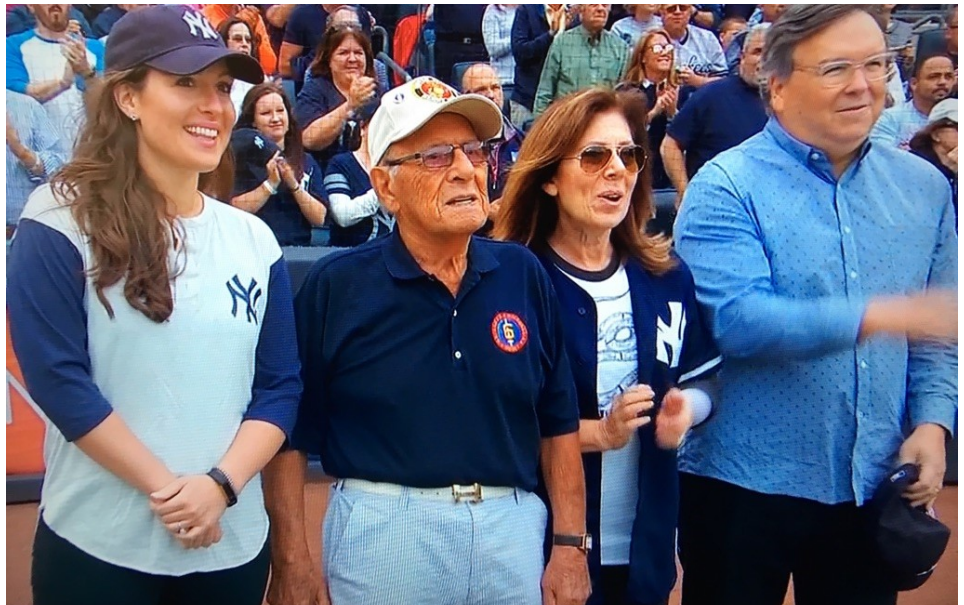
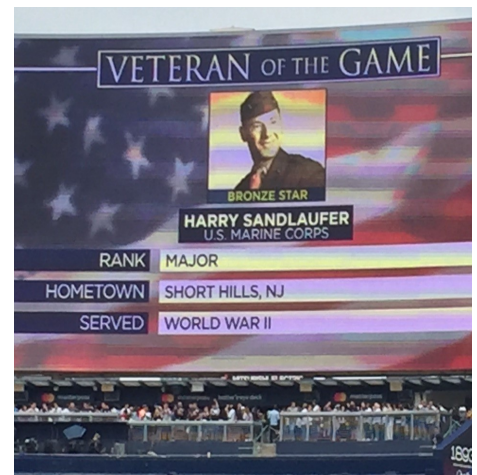
Harry Sandlaufer is Veteran of the Game at Yankee Stadium!

Several Association members let us know that Harry Sandlaufer (29th Mar-3-Mortar) was honored as the Veteran of the Game at Yankee Stadium on Saturday, 2 September 2017 when the Yankees played the Boston Red Sox.

A crowd of 45,000 gave Harry a standing ovation when he was introduced.

Attending the game with Harry were his daughter Robin Ewert, son-in-law Terry Ewert and granddaughter Rebecca Ewert.

Way to go, Harry! We love to see members of the Sixth Marine Division get the thanks and recognition they deserve.



top: Harry Sandlaufer waves to the crowd with his daughter Robin Ewert

middle: the scoreboard

bottom: Rebecca Ewert, Harry Sandlaufer, Robin Ewert, Terry Ewert



From the Historian's Corner

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS CONTRIBUTE TO WAR EFFORT

"The commanding officer, they give you a message that's written. It's just short talking about how much ammunition and certain map area that Marines are getting killed. They need more machine gun ammunition. You translate that as small as you can."

—John Brown, Jr., *Navajo Code Talker*, National Museum of the American Indian interview, 2004

Native Americans have always been known for their warrior ethos. "Despite everything that American Indians had endured in the past, the warrior tradition—the tradition of protecting their people—called many of them to serve in the United States military."

(<http://www.nmai.si.edu>)

Even prior to WWI, the idea of using Native American languages for military communications was being considered. One of the early "Anglos" who thought it could work was Philip Johnston, a missionary's son who had grown up on a Navajo reservation. He went along with his father and some men from the Navajo nation to visit Teddy Roosevelt in the White House to discuss the idea. (Frank, p. 2) It was not yet time.

"More than 12,000 American Indians served in World War I—this was about 25 percent of the male American Indian population at that time. In World War I, Choctaw and other American Indians transmitted battle messages in their tribal languages by telephone. Although not used extensively, the World War I telephone squads played a key role

in helping the United States Army win several battles in France that brought about the end of the war. (<http://www.nmai.si.edu>)

The idea of coming up with a "code" was considered; however, they were never successful with coming up with military words that could be translated into native languages. (Frank, p. 2)

During World War II, when the total American Indian population was less than 350,000, an estimated 44,000 American Indian men and women served. Beginning in 1940, the army recruited Comanches, Choctaws, Hopis, Cherokees, and others to transmit messages.

Phillip Johnston had never given up the idea of using the Navajo language to create a code. In February 1942, he met with Marine officials at Camp Elliot and convinced them that using the Navajo language in both radio and wire transmission would help provide secure transmission for the Marines fighting the Japanese. The Navajo code trials were so successful, General Clayton B. Vogel recommended that code talkers, as they were almost instantly called, be enlisted.

The first class of recruits consisted of 29 young men. Their recruitment was approved by the Navajo Tribal Council, and recruiters were sent to Window Rock Arizona. By August 1943, 193 men had become Marines,

with a very special mission.

After basic training they would face even more difficult training: they would be taught to use the seventeen pages of code, as well as how to use multiple types of communication equipment, both wire and radio. They had to know how to set up and maintain the electronic communication wires, or lines. Often, they had to carry equipment on their backs and were targets because of it. The men also had to translate the messages without writing them down and know when to send in code and when not to. (They limited the use of their special secret.)

Developing the code was both difficult and easy. The codes became known as Type One Codes. To develop the Type One Codes, the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers first came up with a Navajo word for each letter of the English alphabet. They used things that were familiar to them, such animals.

"So we start talking about different things, animals, sea creatures, birds, eagles, hawks, and all those domestic animals. Why don't we use those names of different animals—from A to Z. So A, we took a red ant that we live with all the time. B we took a bear, Yogi the Bear, C a Cat, D a Dog, E an Elk, F a Fox, G a goat, and so on down the line."

—Chester Nez, *Navajo Code Talker*, National Museum of the American Indian interview, 2004"



(continued on next page)

Striking Sixth

Navajo Code Talkers (cont.)

(continued from prior page)

They also developed special code words for military terms.

Well, when they first got us in there for Code Talkers, we had to work that out among our own selves so, we didn't have a word for tank. And the one said...it's just like a turtle, you know. It has a hard shell and it moves, and so we called it a wakaree'e, a turtle.

—Charles Chibitty, Comanche Code Talker, National Museum of the American Indian interview, 2004

Some of the Navajo words used to represent letters:

- C -- MOASI (Cat)
- D -- LHA-CHA-EH (Dog)
- E -- DZEH (Eik)
- I -- TKIN (Ice)
- O -- NE-AHS-JAH (Owl)
- R -- GAH (Rabbit)
- V -- A-KEH-DI-GLINI (Victor)

Ironically, the Navajo language had a bit of an Asian sound which further confused the Japanese. The code itself would save many lives.

From the beginning, the program was considered top secret. When asked if they were aware of the code talkers, several members of the Sixth indicated that while they remember there were “Indians around,” they never knew what they were doing. The racial and cultural environment of the time made their separation from other Marines easy, helping to keep what they were doing secret.

The code talkers would receive personal honors during and after

the war: Purple Hearts, Silver Stars, Good Conduct Medals, and Combat Infantry Badges. But these heroes were told to go home and keep their part in the war silent. The code talkers would not be recognized as a group until 1968.

(<http://www.nmai.si.edu>)

“When we got out, discharged, they told us this thing you that you guys did is going to be a secret. When you get home you don't talk about what you did; don't tell your people, your parents, family, don't tell them what your job was. This is going to be a secret; don't talk about it. Just tell them you were in the service, defend your country and stuff like that. But, the code, never, never, don't mention; don't talk about it. Don't let people ask you, try to get that out of you what you guys did. And that was our secret for about 25, 26 years. Until August 16th, 1968. That's when it was declassified; then it was open. I told my sister, my aunt, all my families what I really did.”—Chester Nez, Navajo Code Talker, National Museum of the American Indian interview, 2004

President Ronald Reagan gave the Code Talkers a Certificate of

Recognition and declared 14 August 1982 Navajo Code Talkers Day (see page 22). In 2000, President Bill Clinton signed a law which awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the original 29 Code Talkers. President George W. Bush presented the medals to the four surviving Code Talkers at a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington in July 2001. (<https://www.cia.gov>)

Today, code talkers are admired by young Navajo's, and they have become another part of Marine Corps lore and legacy. In 1981, General Alexander A. Vandergrift wrote in a letter, “In short, Navajos make good Marines, and I should be very proud to command a unit composed entirely of these people.”

Sources:

Warriors: Navajo Code Talkers: Kenji Kawano; Introduction: Benis M. Frank, Northland Publishing Co.

Letter from G.R. Lockard, of Camp Goettge Signal Company to General Alexander A. Vandergrift, U.S. Marine Corps. (Navajo Weapon by Sally McClain, 1981)



Proclamation 4954 -- National Navaho Code Talkers Day

By the President of the United States of America

Since the Revolutionary War, when General George Washington praised the Indians under his command, the United States has been privileged to have members of the Indian Nation serve in its armed forces.

From the bravery demonstrated at Valley Forge and the establishment of the U.S. Indian Scouts on August 1, 1866, to the present day, Native Americans have heeded the call to duty. Though often excluded from the annals of United States history, these people, nonetheless, have defended the only land they have ever known, asking for nothing more than opportunity in return.

The Navaho Nation, when called upon to serve the United States, contributed a precious commodity never before used in this way. In the midst of the fighting in the Pacific during World War II, a gallant group of men from the Navaho Nation utilized their language in coded form to help speed the Allied victory.

Equipped with the only foolproof, unbreakable code in the history of warfare, the code talkers confused the enemy with an earful of sounds never before heard by code experts. The dedication and unswerving devotion to duty shown by the men of the

Navaho Nation in serving as radio code talkers in the Marine Corps during World War II should serve as a fine example for all Americans.

It is fitting that at this time we also express appreciation for the other American Indians who have served our Nation in times of war. Members of the Choctaw, Chippewa, Creek, Sioux, and other tribes used their tribal languages as effective battlefield codes against the Germans in World War I and the Japanese and Germans in World War II.

Beyond this unique role, American Indians serving in the United States military forces have established an outstanding record of bravery and heroism in battle. Many have given their lives in the performance of their duty. Their record should be recognized by all Americans.

By House Joint Resolution 444, the Congress has requested me to designate August 14, 1982, as National Navaho Code Talkers Day.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate August 14, 1982 as National Navaho Code Talkers Day, a day dedicated to all members of the Navaho Nation and to all Native Americans who gave their special talents and their lives so that others might

live. I ask the American people to join me in this tribute, and I call upon Federal, State and local officials to commemorate this day with appropriate activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of July in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

RONALD REAGAN





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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, death notices, and record changes should be mailed with an application (see page 25) 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

**It's time to pay for your
2018 newsletter subscription!**
**Send your check for \$10 to
Flo Dornan by 12/31 to continue
receiving the Striking Sixth in 2018.**

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

Message from the Membership Manager



I am very happy that I was able to attend the Sixth Marine Division Reunion in Scottsdale, AZ. Jean and Bill Steed

put on a wonderful reunion as I expected; their hard work showed in many ways. Special to me was meeting Peter MacDonald, one of 15 living Navajo Code Talkers (out of 400), and "Buzz" Bissinger, author of *Friday Night Lights*, who recently learned his father was in the Sixth Marine Division. He graciously donated enough books for each person at the reunion and even signed them. I am now looking forward to Baltimore!!

It is now getting close to the end of 2017 and that means it is time

for me to remind you all as usual to check your label for the status of your dues and newsletter subscription. (See the bottom of the next page for the coding.) If your subscription expiration is 2017, you will not receive the newsletter next year unless you send me your newsletter dues for 2018. Remember, newsletter dues are separate from your membership dues.

Also, if you learn of the passing of one of your buddies or a member of the Association, please let Chaplain Harry McKnight and me know.

Occasionally I receive a request regarding how many of the original Sixth Division Marines are still alive. I have no way of knowing that, but below is the status of the membership and the number of regular members in the Association.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

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

Reminder -- Newsletter dues for 2018 are due now!

Even if you are a lifetime Association member, you must pay for your newsletter each year.

Donations — Thank You!

GENERAL FUND

Nancy Camise
Jack Hoag*
Arno Schroeder

*Over and above

New Members

GUERRERO, Ralph, ID #6248
Regular Life Member
15th Marines-2-D
Spouse: Josie
1343 So. Thornburg Street
Santa Maria, CA 93458-6550
805-925-4447

KELLY, Karen, I., ID #6247
Honorary Life Member
1033 Chinaberry Road
Clearwater, FL 33764-4901
727-539-8964
hkkelly21@gmail.com

LASORDA, Michelle, ID #6249
Associate LD Life Member
Granddaughter of Sam
Petriello (15th Marines-4-L)
20 Cedar Knoll Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030

STAHLER, John E., ID #6246
Associate LD Annual Member
Cousin of Keith C. Perry
(22nd Mar-2-F)
Spouse: Lynn
5232 E Woodwind Lane
Anaheim, CA 92807
714-323-2382
johnstahler1@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP @ October 21, 2017

Regular Members	1,054
Associate Members	628
Lineal Descendants	149
Honorary Members	9
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	1,840
(dues paid for 2017-2020)	

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS @ October 21, 2017

Paid for 2017	91
Paid for 2018-2024	98
Honorary Members	9

Membership Application / Change of Address Form

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address _____ Apt _____

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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:

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His unit within the Division, if known _____

Annual dues (\$10 per year).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____Amount due: \$ _____

Life Membership (\$75).....Check if Member _____ or Associate Member _____Amount due: \$ _____

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Subscription to the Striking Sixth Newsletter of the Sixth Marine Division (\$10 per year)Amount due: \$ _____

Annual dues and subscriptions to the newsletter are based on a calendar year.

Additional copies of the newsletter are \$3.50.

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

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

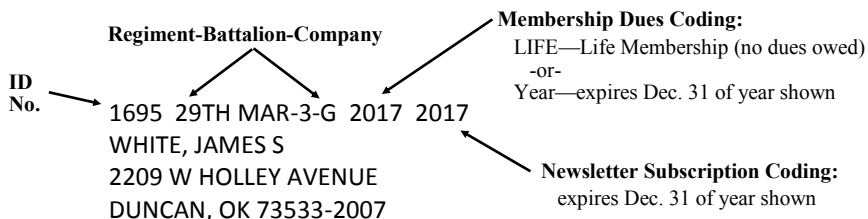
E-mail: sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net Phone: (817) 275-1552

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.





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.

Accrocco, Carol E.	Wife of Joe Accrocco	04/27/2016
Bissinger, Harry Gerard II	29th Regiment	10/25/2001
Carter, John G.	6th Marine Division	unknown
Caruso, George	29th-Mar-2-D	10/23/2017
Clark, Earl A.	29th Mar-1-B	10/12/2017
Criss, Fillmore F.	6th Marine Division	unknown
Cross, Irvin L.	4th Mar-HQ-Motor Trans	04/02/2015
Drennan, Raymond J.	6th Marine Division	09/14/2017
Healy, Joseph	6th Marine Division	10/05/2017
Hulek, William	29th Mar-2-F	09/10/2017
Keller, John W.	6th Marine Division	unknown
Leier, Richard	22nd Mar-WPNS	09/20/2017
Mahoney, Donald	29th Mar-3-G	08/08/2015
Mahoney, Gloria	Wife of Donald Mahoney	04/07/1993
Scofield, Robert	6th Marine Division	08/10/2017
Sosienski, Alfred	31st NCB	08/10/2017
Trumbo, Paul`	22nd Mar-1-A	unknown
Vail, Mary	Wife of Maurice Vail	02/00/2017
Yonan, Joseph Sr.	22nd Mar-3-K	10/24/2017

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@icloud.com

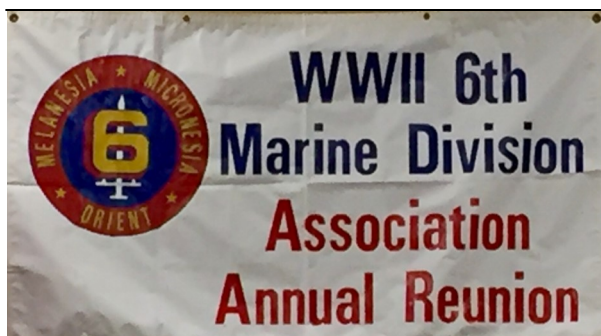
Harry Bertram to be Buried at Arlington on April 6

Harry Bertram will be interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on April 6, 2018. The service will begin at 11:00, but guests should arrive by 10:30.

Harry was an officer in the Air Force when he retired from military service. However, his heart was always with the Marines, particularly the

Sixth Marine Division. Representatives from the Air Force will attend the service, and it was Harry's wish that a Marine representative (ideally in dress blues) also attend his funeral.

For more information, please go to arlingtoncemetery.mil or call 877-907-8585.



Attention Early Bird Reunion Planners

The Hilton has set up a special website for our group to make hotel reservations for the reunion. You'll find it on our website (sixthmarinedivision.com) under 6th Div Assn, then Reunions, then 2018 Reunion.

Or you can call 1-800-445-8667 and ask for the Sixth Marine Division Association 2018 Reunion at the Hilton BWI Airport.



Beautiful Baltimore!

There's so much to do in Baltimore:

- Inner Harbor with historic ships, boat cruises, museums, shops & restaurants
- National Aquarium
- Fort McHenry National Monument
- Maryland Science Center
- Baltimore Museum of Art
- B&O Railroad Museum
- Babe Ruth Museum
- Edgar Allen Poe Museum
- Maryland Live! Casino

Plus nearby you'll find:

- Historic Annapolis (25 miles)
- U.S. Naval Academy (20 miles)
- Washington D.C. (35 miles)

Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel

We think you'll love this hotel. They have a contract with Honor Flight and frequently host World War II and Korean War veterans. They love veterans and understand our group's needs.

Amenities include:

- Discounted room rates -- \$119 for singles and doubles, \$129 for triples and quads, plus 13% tax
- Room rates include a breakfast buffet for two with cooked-to-order omelets and waffles
- Rooms have one king or two queen beds, sitting area, mini-fridge, desk and 32-inch TV
- Free 24/7 hotel shuttle to and from the airport
- Free parking
- Onsite restaurant, bar and 24-hour pantry market plus room service
- Indoor pool and fitness room
- Limited number of accessible rooms, so reserve early for those
- Room rates are available 2 days before and 2 days after reunion dates

We wish the room rates were lower, but they were the best we could find for a hotel with space for our group. We think it's a good value for a quality hotel on the east coast.



- 1) Baltimore neighborhood
- 2) National Aquarium
- 3) Hilton exterior
- 4) Hilton bar & lobby
- 5) Our hostess, Patty Payne, with her late father, Jim McGuigan (29th Mar-3-G), at the 2014 reunion

Look for more details, including the complete reunion schedule, in the spring Striking Sixth!

Sixth Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011



Striking Sixth Newsletter

Fall 2017

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