

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 42 No. 1

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2017



2017 Reunion: Sun & Fun in Arizona!

**EMBASSY SUITES PHOENIX-SCOTTSDALE
AUGUST 15-20, 2017**

The state motto of Arizona is *Ditat Deus*, which means God enriches. Photos of Arizona (like the one above) do seem proof that God has blessed Arizona abundantly. Fortunately, he has also blessed Arizona with air-conditioning. Because Arizona in August is hot! But not to worry...we'll stay cool and enjoy off-season rates at the Embassy Suites.

Jean and Bill Steed have been working all winter to plan a fabulous reunion. Reminder: they are *both* Marines. So you know it will be organized, outstanding, and fun! All of the main events will be at the beautiful Embassy Suites, which is just 20 minutes from the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. How cool is that?

*See pages 2, 12-16, and 27-28
for more about the 2017 Reunion.*

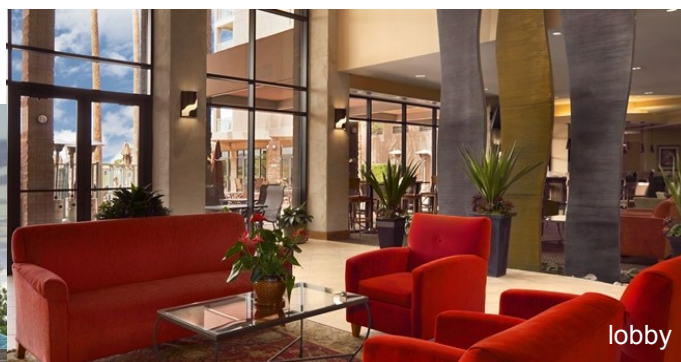
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2017 Reunion!



Embassy Suites Phoenix-Scottsdale



lobby



pool



bar

IF YOU ARE GOING...

1. Make your hotel reservations online or call (602) 765-5800 or (800) 560-7782 and mention Group Code 6TH. Make sure to ask for Embassy Suites Phoenix-Scottsdale. (There are 2 other Embassy Suites in Phoenix.)
2. Send in your Registration Form — it's on pages 15-16.
3. Contact Jean (480-518-0077) or Bill Steed (480-518-0088) if you have any questions.
4. Make your transportation arrangements.

KEY DEADLINE — JULY 14

for hotel reservations and Registration Form

Correction: The fall 2016 newsletter misidentified two people: Kikue Cloud and Watson Crumbie. They are correctly identified in bold in the picture captions below. There was another picture of Kikue Cloud on page 5 where she was also misidentified. We sincerely regret and apologize for these errors.



front row: Flo Dornan, Pfuong Riles, Natalie Wells, Lilly Whalen, Kathy Schadt, Joan Willauer, Margaret Crumbie
back row: **Kikue Cloud**, Pauline Roberts, Shirley Judd, Mary Walker, Barbara McKnight, Janet Russell, Mary Jane Most



front row: Don Honis, William Most, Joe Kite, Harry McKnight, Marty Gromley, Harry Grover, Paul Judd, George McAfee, John Whalen;
second row: Sam Petriello, Neal McCallum, William Cloud, Harry Sandlaufer, D.C. Rigby, Ken Wells, **Watson Crumbie**, Clyde Baulch;
third row: color guard



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29th Marines	Neal McCallum
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6th Medical Battalion	Vacant
6th Engineering	Vacant
6th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta
6th Pioneer Battalion	Marvin Gromley
6th Headquarters Battalion	Joe W. Kite
6th Recon Company	Joe Singleton
6th JASCO	George McAfee
1st Amphibs	Vacant

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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.

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Please make checks payable to:

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For more information, please contact Flo at:

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sxthmardiv@sbcglobal.net

It's time to pay your 2017 dues!

**If you want to continue receiving the
newsletter in 2017, please send \$10
to Flo Dornan, address at right.**

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

My Time as a Marine — The Battle of Chosin Reservoir

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

What is now known as “The Most Epic Battle in Marine Corps History” began on the night of 27 November 1950 when Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) attacked all UN Forces in North Korea. We now faced a new war against a new and powerful enemy. Ten Chinese divisions surrounded and were ready to destroy the isolated outposts of Marines one by one. Our survival, as well as most UN forces in North Korea, was suddenly in jeopardy!

I was with the Marines at Yudam-ni, which was the furthest the Marines advanced into North Korea, when the Chinese suddenly appeared and surrounded all UN Forces in North Korea. Their orders were to annihilate the 1st Marine Division to the last man. They were seasoned combat troops, having fought the Japanese, as well as the Nationalists in the recent civil war.

Around 10:00 p.m. on 27 November, we saw flares and heard bugles and whistles. The Marines inflicted heavy casualties upon the waves of attacking Chinese, but Marine casualties were also great – more than 500 wounded were brought into our area the first night. We cared for some of them in tents, but others had to stay outside in sleeping bags where the temperature had dropped to 30 degrees below zero. Blood froze, which prevented many wounded Marines from bleeding to death, but blood plas-

ma also froze. Corpsmen thawed morphine vials in their mouth. The Chinese attack was such a surprise that many Marines were bayoneted in their sleeping bags – moisture from their breath had frozen the zippers.

Ridge Runner

The attack was stopped just 200 yards from our artillery battery. We loaded several hundred wounded and dead onto vehicles and formed a convoy. I became a “ridge runner” walking the ridge

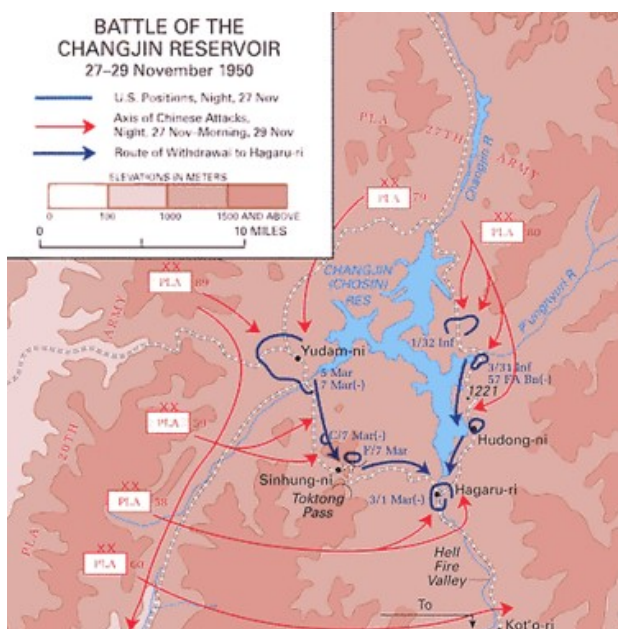
Marines on the west side of the reservoir as the Chinese general had planned. Their intelligence forces were not aware that the 5th Regiment had joined forces with those on the west side and were thus a greater force than the general had expected.

Artillery to Infantry

Instead of being home for Christmas, as General MacArthur had promised, our survival – as well as that of most UN forces in North Korea – was suddenly in jeopardy. We were at risk of annihilation! An order was issued for all units to provide men for the infantry. The even numbered gun crews from Love Battery were selected. I was on gun number one. We found we could only man four of the six guns.

The “cannon-infantry” men were sent to the top of Hill 1542, which commanded the road below, the road that was vital to our escape. The lieutenant in charge remained in a warm tent at the base of the hill, leaving Sgt. Jim Johnson to command the unit designated as Jig Company 7th Marine Regiment.

Around 4:30 a.m., a large force of Chinese wearing U.S. Marine parkas attacked Jig Company. The Marines held their fire, not knowing who they were until they were upon them. That was when they discovered that their carbines would not fire in such cold weather. Several Marines were killed and the unit was in danger of being overrun when Sgt. Johnson, realizing the situation was hopeless, gathered all



to guard the convoy from an enemy flank attack. I picked up a Garand M-1 rifle, a reliable weapon which had been left by a wounded or dead Marine. How I must have looked wearing a cartridge belt with ten clips (eight bullets each) of ammunition around my waist and a bandolier with another ten clips over each shoulder, plus four hand grenades dangling from my chest! That alone should have scared the bravest Chinese soldier.

The Chinese failed to destroy the

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My Time as a Marine

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the grenades. While he held off the attacking enemy, he ordered a withdrawal of the remaining force. He was last seen alive in hand to hand combat. For his actions in saving so many lives, he received the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Our howitzers had to fire at a very high angle due to the short distance to the target. It was probably the highest angle ever fired by a 155mm howitzer. Several howitzers were damaged when in recoil they hit the frozen ground. We found it necessary to somehow dig or blast a "recoil pit." It was probably the first time in Marine Corps history.

We fired on villages to the north occupied by the Chinese, but with no visibility, results were unknown. After we fired the last of our ammunition, we hitched the guns to the prime movers and became infantrymen.

Frozen

Twice I encountered a group of Chinese soldiers barely visible in the falling snow. I fired a clip (eight bullets) at them, but I was unable to keep them in sight, and they did not return fire. It was difficult walking the steep banks in the deep snow and my frozen feet were in extreme pain. Our boots were made of rubber, totally inadequate for such cold. They had half-inch-thick felt insoles to absorb perspiration. The insoles froze, and it was like walking barefoot on ice. Whenever possible, I tried to dry out the felt insoles, each time cracking ice or frozen perspiration from my toes. Our breath and tears froze. All who served at Chosin

suffer from long term cold injury, including nerve damage and pain that intensifies with age.

Toktong Pass

Seven miles south of Yudam-ni was Toktong, a vital mountain pass which was held by Fox Company of the 7th Marines. It was commonly called "Fox Hill." Surrounded, the only way Fox Company could be supplied was by air drop. Several times the parachutes drifted into Chinese territory. Fortunately, one battery of 105mm howitzers in Hagaru-ri could support them by firing maximum range.

Fox Company was unable to treat or evacuate their wounded. Since they could not dig foxholes in the frozen ground, they stacked dead Chinese like sandbags for protection. They decimated almost an entire Chinese division while holding the pass, until a force from Yudam-ni was able to reach them. Guided only by the stars at night and a compass during the day, a relief column led by Lt. Col. Ray Davis marched through waist-deep snow around the back side of the mountains until they reached Fox Hill. The road from Yudam-ni was then cleared by taking the hills on each side of the road.

With the road cleared, our convoy left Yudam-ni on 1 December and arrived at the pass a few hours later. We loaded the wounded and dead aboard trucks. It was one of the most difficult things I have ever done. The dead bodies were frozen in the position in which they died. Reluctantly, I gave my sleeping bag to a wounded Marine. There

would be little chance for me to sleep anyway until we reached Hagaru-ri. We would fall asleep walking and wander off the road, or doze off in the middle of a sentence while talking. I would sit on my helmet, which had a round bottom, and as I fell asleep I would fall over and wake up. While asleep, I would feel warm and totally at peace; I believe that is how it feels just before you freeze to death.

On to Hagaru-ri

From Toktong Pass it was about eight miles to Hagaru-ri at the base of the reservoir. Five inches of new snow had fallen. The Chinese had destroyed all the bridges and blown out sections of the mountain road. The narrow road was a sheet of ice. Again, I became a ridge runner to protect the convoy from ambush. There were times that I could not walk the flanks due to the terrain and had to walk the road. I remember a Chinese heavy machine gun firing at me from across a valley. I could see that his bullets were hitting the snow bank over my head, but I was too exhausted to care, so I continued to walk while he kept firing, never realizing that his sights were off.

We lost one truck when it slipped off the icy road and down a steep hill side. We had to burn it to destroy what we could not salvage. One truck loaded with wounded that was pulling a trailer loaded with wounded slid over the side and down a steep embankment in the middle of the night killing several of the wounded. They had to be

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My Time as a Marine

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brought back up to the road and placed wherever there was a place in the convoy, such as on a hood or fender or even on top of other wounded.

As we moved, I found myself near the end of the column. This is where the howitzers were – to prevent them from blocking the road if they became disabled. About midnight, just short of Hagaru-ri, some of the prime movers (tractors) pulling our guns ran out of diesel fuel, creating a gap in the column and the opportunity the Chinese had been waiting for.

First, they knocked out a tank from Hagaru-ri that had been sent to assist us at a bridge over an inlet, effectively blocking the road. The tank was burning, and ammunition was exploding. The flames cast a glow to the advantage of the Chinese. They went after the howitzers, firing at the tractor drivers and into the radiators. I was blinded by the flash of my first shot and I could only fire into the darkness where I thought the Chinese were. We killed several Chinese, but we also suffered casualties. I left our tractor driver for dead in the roadside ditch, but he showed up later in not much of a forgiving mood. I still bear a feeling of guilt for this.

We had to abandon nine guns by pushing them off the road. Then to reach Hagaru-ri, we had to run past the exploding tank. At first light, the British 41 Commando tried to retrieve the howitzers, but the Chinese drove them back. Army fighter planes attempted to drop napalm on them but missed. The Chinese

now had nine of our eighteen 155mm howitzers, including my gun and all of my possessions.

Going back to the evening of 27 November, the Army 31st Regimental Combat Team relieved the 5th Marines on the east side of the reservoir, which allowed the 5th Marines to join the 7th Marines on the west side of the reservoir. A large force of Chinese attacked the Army units on the east, and for several days the Army engaged the Chinese force that would have otherwise been available to attack Hagaru-ri. In my opinion, this effectively kept the Chinese from seizing Hagaru-ri before the Marines from Yudam-ni were able to get there, and the Chinese were prevented from achieving their strategic objective to trap and annihilate all UN forces at Chosin.

Task Force Faith

The Army was ordered to form a force to fight their way to Hagaru-ri. Known as Task Force Faith, after Lt. Col. Don Faith, they loaded their wounded aboard trucks and decided to run the road blocks to reach Hagaru-ri. The lead truck was knocked out at the first road block, effectively blocking the road. The trucks that followed, which were carrying the wounded, attempted to go around it but were stopped. The Chinese converged on the trucks, machine gunned them, and set them on fire.

An attempt by Army tanks from Hagaru-ri to reinforce Task Force Faith had been turned back, and the Army unit that Task Force Faith was expecting to meet up with at Hudong-ni was not there. It had been with-

drawn earlier to help reinforce Hagaru-ri.

Task Force Faith was effectively defeated, and each man was on his own. They were forced to abandon everything, including quad 50 caliber machine guns and twin 40mm anti-aircraft guns that had been extremely effective against the Chinese. About 400 able-bodied men and 1,500 wounded drifted into Hagaru-ri a few at a time. They either walked through the hills in waist-deep snow or over the frozen reservoir. Lt. Col. Faith was not among them.

Task Force Drysdale

Hagaru-ri was badly in need of reinforcements to hold until the Marines from Yudam-ni arrived. In a desperate attempt to help, a task force from Koto-ri, some ten miles south, was ordered to attack north to Hagaru-ri. Named Task Force Drysdale after the British commander of the Royal Marines, it was made up of the British 41 Commando and elements of the 1st Marine Regiment. They managed to reach a point half way between Hagaru-ri and Koto-ri where – at what was to become known as Hell Fire Valley – the Chinese ambushed the force, killing and wounding a large number. Numerous vehicles, including tanks, were destroyed and blocked the road, most in a jumbled heap. Some Marines ran out of ammunition, and the Chinese took them prisoner. Drysdale radioed General Smith at Hagaru-ri of the situation. He asked if he should turn back or

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My Time as a Marine

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try to get through with the remaining force. General Smith's orders were to continue the attack "at all costs," which they did. Of the 900 who left Koto-ri, 400 made it to Hagaru-ri

Attack on Hagaru-ri

The Chinese had broken thru the defense perimeter of Hagaru-ri the night before we arrived from Yudam-ni, but they were driven back by a counterattack. Hagaru-ri was in danger of being overrun a second time, which would have proved fatal. That's when 2nd Lieutenant Dick Carey sent out two South Koreans in Chinese uniforms to mingle with the Chinese in an attempt to find out where and when the next attack on Hagaru-ri would take place. They returned with the information, and the perimeter was reinforced. The Chinese attack came at the place they had determined, but it was off by one hour. Lt. Carey took a lot of kidding for failing to find out if the Chinese were on daylight savings time.

In the attack, the Chinese suffered heavy casualties and were unable to penetrate the reinforced defense. The intelligence probably saved Hagaru-ri and the lives of thousands of Marines. However, Hagaru-ri would still be extremely vulnerable until the Marines from Yudam-ni arrived.

Magnificent Bastards

The first contingent of Marines from Yudam-ni reached Hagaru-ri about 9:00 p.m. on 3 December. We arrived with 1,500 dead and wounded. It had taken 59 hours for the lead column to

travel the 14 miles from Yudam-ni. All who could walk – including the wounded – were formed up. To the cadence of feet crunching in the snow, we marched into Hagaru-ri singing the Marine Corps Hymn! The battalion surgeon shouted, "Look at those bastards, those Magnificent Bastards!" They were as glad to see us as we were to be there. By joining forces, it greatly increased our odds of survival.

On 3 December, the cooks at Hagaru-ri provided hot pancakes and hot coffee around the clock. It was practically the only real food or liquid we would have for thirteen days until we reached the seaport of Hungnam.

We found a supply of 155mm ammunition which we fired with our remaining guns until it was depleted, and we became infantry again. A request for mortar ammunition was made using the code word "TOOTSIEROLL." The Army Air Force in Japan did not realize that it was a code. Instead of mortar ammunition, C-119's flew low overhead and showered us with Tootsie Rolls! These Tootsie Rolls, which we thawed in our mouths, became the nourishment that saved our lives! Tootsie Rolls are to be found everywhere at our reunions. A representative of the company attends most of them.

Our engineers had chiseled a rough airstrip on the frozen ground at Hagaru-ri, and this was used to evacuate more than 6,000 wounded and fly in more than 500 replacements. With



Hagaru-ri road block

reinforcements flown in, I once again became an infantryman. Our next task was to fight our way to Koto-ri, some ten miles distant. Once we reached Koto-ri, we would have to fight another thirty-seven miles to Chinhung-ni, which was held by the Third Army Division to protect the port of Hungnam. There the navy had assembled a fleet of transports waiting to evacuate us, should we make it.

During the ten miles to Koto-ri, we had to fight through eleven roadblocks. I remember passing through Hell Fire Valley where Task Force Drysdale had been ambushed. It was in the middle of the night with a bright moon and large snowflakes floating gently down in total silence. Burned tanks, trucks, and other vehicles were piled high in a draw and covered with snow, creating a ghostly scene. We loaded the dead onto trucks and continued to fight our way through nine more roadblocks to Koto-ri. The lead elements reached Koto-ri on 9 December. Our chance of survival increased with each step.

Next: The Battle of Chosin Reservoir continues

Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir Battle Monument To Be Dedicated on May 3

After more than four years of fundraising (\$700,000), contracting, and construction by a great team, the Chosin Few Battle Monument has been completed. I am the Chairman of this project. [See pictures below and right.]

The Monument sits on a prime site along the memorial walkway at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA. The eight bronze plaques on the sides of the octagon-shaped monument describe each phase of the battle from Yudam-ni to the Treadway Bridge at Funchilin Pass. Shining brightly above at a height of fifteen feet is the Star of Koto-ri.

The dedication of the Memorial will take place on 3 May 2017 at 1500 hours. General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will speak. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend due to respiratory problems. But it gives me great satisfaction to know that although it took five years, we have created a memorial that will preserve the history of the Korean War for future generations.

Watson Crumbie (29th Mar-1-C)



Jangjin (Chosin) Reservoir Battle Monument



Musings from Jack Lynch

Dear Flo,

Here is my check for the newsletter. Please use what's left for those Gyrenes who need some help with their subscriptions.

Got a call on Christmas from a niece who said that she had PTSD after going through a divorce. I told her, at the risk of hurting her feelings, "You having PTSD is absurd. Your great uncle Pfc Lester Owen, who you never met, certainly had it. What would you expect to bring back from the battles of Tarawa, Saipan and Okinawa? She re-

plied that she didn't believe war was the way to resolve disputes between countries. I said, "It's a good thing for you that everyone doesn't think that way or we would all be slaves speaking Japanese! Merry Christmas."

Retired Marine Generals "Mad Dog" Mattis and John Kelly are going to Washington to assume cabinet level positions with the incoming administration. "Stand by! The Marines have landed and the situation is well in hand." May I offer just one suggestion? Wear your body armor, especially on the back. The inside-the-beltway boys are busy sharpening their knives as I write this. What do you think, Striking Sixth family? Will Marine honor, loyalty and integrity overcome political skullduggery? I, for one, pray that it will.

I have been listening to some of the CDs Uncle Lester left when he passed in 2004 including "The Complete Glenn Miller" and a CD by Tommy Dorsey. I think I am getting hooked on Big Band music. Try it, you'll like it.

A Marine Colonel was inspecting his Marines in the field. He came upon one of his men who was wearing a rather worn and frayed field jacket. "Marine," he asked, "Can you tell me why you wear such a frayed field jacket?" "Yes, sir, I can," he replied. The colonel asked, "Well, what is it?" "Sir, this here field jacket I am wearing ain't 'fraida nuthin'!

As Gunny Ermey would say, "Semper Fi – Carry on!"

Jack E. Lynch
1388 VanZant Bend Road
Belvidere, TN 37306



RIP Lorenzo "Lester" Forgit

It is with a heavy heart that I notify you of the passing of Lorenzo Forgit (29th Mar-HQ-Band). I have had a special place in my heart for Marines ever since I began doing research for the website I set up to honor my Grandfather who served in the Sixth Marine Division.

One day a very kind and friendly gentlemen walked up to my bank teller window. He was wearing a jacket with the Sixth Marine Division Insignia.

I stopped what I was doing and asked, "Did you serve in the Sixth Marine Division, sir?" He paused and said "Why yes, how did you know?" I told him about my search for information about the Grandfather I never knew. After finishing his transaction, he proudly smiled and wished me well with a God bless. I took the opportunity to write down his address from the transaction slip he gave me, and I proceeded to mail him a copy of the Sixth Marine Division newsletter. I offered my assistance in any way, such as having his medals reissued or connecting him with lost service buddies.

A couple of days later I received an inter-department package at work from someone in my company. I opened it and there was a letter from Les saying how pleased he was to have met me and thanking me for sending the newsletter. He wrote that he used to play the bugle with the

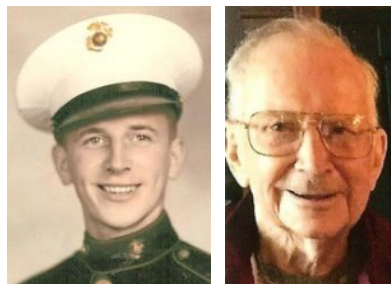
29th Marines HQ Band and was in the Merchant Marines before that. He was eager to correspond more and mentioned that two of his daughters worked within my company so we could save postage expense.

I assisted with getting his medals reissued, and I purchased a subscription for the Sixth Marine Division for him. The day he received his medals, he came in to my workplace with tears in his eyes, thanking me for my hard work. He told me I was a special person and presented me with his Sixth Marine Division pin. With a hug and tears in my eyes, I said to him, "Semper Fi."

That day a friendship was born. We continued to correspond with cards on holidays including Memorial Day and Veterans Day, always with a warm "Semper Fi."

Les lived and loved the USMC. On the Marine Corps birthday he would celebrate at the local VFW with a pancake breakfast. He was loved by everyone in town. I cared about him and respected him like he was my Grandfather.

Semper Fi,
Karen Hayes-Levine



Lorenzo "Lester" Forgit

Say Hello to Colin Loflin



Colin Loflin and his friend David Tyler at the 2016 Accomac, VA Independence Day parade

April 1 is a memorable date for all Okinawa combat veterans. Not only was April 1, 1945 Easter Sunday, it was also Love Day of Operation ICEBERG. And for Sgt Colin Loflin, April Fool's Day 1945 was particularly special because it was his 27th birthday. Colin enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 and was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 22d Marines. He was a native of Virginia's Eastern Shore and resides there still with his wife Bobbie. Although his physical condition has declined recently, his intellect remains sharp, and his memories vivid. Like most combat veterans he is guarded in discussing his combat experiences, but on one special occasion he quietly and humbly said to me, "David, I was a damn good scout, and I always tried to take care of my men." I am honored to be his friend. Colin can be reached by email at dtyler4@cox.net.

David Tyler
CAPT, USN (Ret)

Breakfast Club Memories

Hello!

My Dad was a member of the "Breakfast Club" that met at Sam Petriello's in Norristown, PA. I have been going through the albums he kept about the reunions. Enclosed are some programs, clippings and photos. [See two of the best below.]

Sincerely,
Vicki MacDougall
mzmac3@comcast.net



Dan MacDougall, Parris Island, 1942



Alio & Angela Benedetti, Vicki & Dan MacDougall, Luther Blue Lancaster, PA, October 2001

Friends Now Guarding the Gates of Heaven



Bryce Hill Jr. and Charlie Stringham, August 2016

Hello again Flo,

I'm getting sad reporting all of these passings of Dad and his friends. Charlie Stringham passed away on March 1, 2017. I know his wife Louie passed away not long ago, so I didn't know if anyone else in his family would report it to the Association.

Dad and Charlie had a great visit last August, and I'm attaching a picture of them. [See above.] Great guys.

Thanks,
Jan Andrew
Daughter of Bryce Hill Jr.

Missing Newsletter

Dear Flo,

I received the newsletter and noticed that Andy's name was not in Taps.

Andrew Horvath, 15th Mar-3-I
March 6, 1922 – Dec. 18, 2015

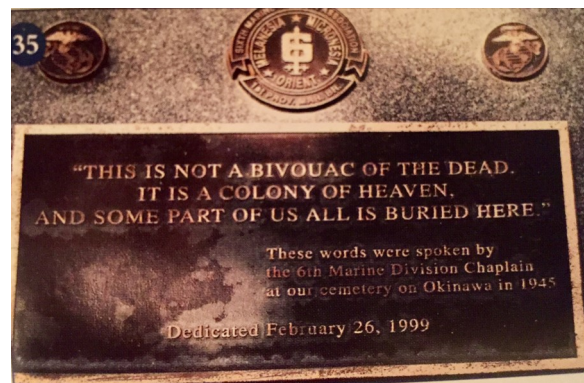
Andy was President of the Association 1997-1998. During that time he saw to it that the Sixth Marine Division Memorial was placed in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (aka the Punchbowl) in Hawaii. [See photo below.] It is really a beautiful place.

Before his passing, we hadn't been able to attend many reunions and we hadn't been receiving any newsletters – Andy really missed them. I am enclosing a check for \$20 toward the cost.

Hope you are doing well. God bless you always.

With love,
Anne Horvath

Note from the Membership Manager:
The reason you missed Andy's name in Taps is because it was in the Spring 2016 issue, which you did not receive. I am sending you a copy of that newsletter.



Sixth Marine Division Memorial at the Punchbowl Cemetery, Honolulu, Hawaii

Chaplain's Report



I'm okay for 90, but I have trouble with my balance at times on steps. I still play golf with my 91-year

old brother who was in the second wave at Iwo Jima.

Don Honis's daughter, Heidi, called to say Don had died. He had gone to the VA for something minor, come home, and then he died unexpectedly. Now we need another "bell ringer" at the next reunion, which I am looking forward to.

Keep the commandments, say your prayers, read the Scriptures and don't do or say dumb things. And remember who is really in charge of this world.

Your friendly Chaplain.
Harry McKnight

Happy 75th Birthday, Seabees!

MARCH 5, 1942 -
MARCH 5, 2017



Spring 2017

New Membership Directory

ORDER YOURS NOW!

Joe L. Kite (son of Joe W. Kite, 29th Mar-HQ) is hard at work on a new Sixth Marine Division Association directory that will be available in electronic format.

If you want to receive the new directory, please send your e-mail address to Joe Kite at:

JLK1621@juno.com

If you want someone else to receive the directory for you, please send his/her name and e-mail address to Joe.

The Directory should be available within the next month. Please note it is for Association members only.

From the Editor



When Bob got out of the Marine Corps in 1976, we decided to take all the money we had to drive across the country. Our goal was to see

as many national parks as we could plus, of course, Hollywood and Disneyland. We had never been west of Ohio, so it was quite an adventure.

One of the parks we visited was the magnificent Grand Canyon. But I don't remember much about it. While we were there, Bob and I had an argument (about what, I have no recollection), and all I remember is being mad! Fortunately, the argument was over by the time we moved on to Utah. But I have always wanted to go back and see the Grand Canyon in a happier frame of mind.

This year — forty-two years later — we're finally going to do it!

The Grand Canyon is only four hours from Phoenix, so we are heading out a week before the reunion to see it, along with some of the other sights in Arizona. There is a lot to see!

Before I started researching the area, I thought Arizona consisted of Phoenix, the Grand Canyon, and an endless boring desert. You know, just a bunch of sand. Was I ever wrong! Arizona has some of the most stunning scenery and interesting formations of any state in the union. We are really excited to see what we can.

We are also really excited for another Sixth Marine Division reunion. I hope you are too. And if you can, consider coming early or staying late and seeing some of beautiful Arizona.

~ Carroll McGowan

p.s. Every Marine passing saddens me, and Don Honis is no exception. Bob and I are so grateful we were on the same flight with Don and his daughter Heidi and son-in-law Adam when we came back from Oklahoma last year. It gave us a chance to spend a little more time with him. Plus we got to hear the pilot announce that there was a World War II Marine who fought on Okinawa on board the plane. Along with everyone else, we applauded enthusiastically! That was special. ♥

Sixth Marine Division Association 2017 Reunion

EMBASSY SUITES PHOENIX—SCOTTSDALE



SUITE DREAMS AT THE EMBASSY SUITES!

Everyone loved the Embassy Suites in Oklahoma last year, and why not? The suites were huge and comfortable, breakfast was free and convenient, and we had plenty of room to socialize. We're sure you'll love this year's accommodations just as much.

GETTING THERE...

4415 E. Paradise Village Pkwy S.
Phoenix, AZ 85032
(602) 765-5800

The hotel is 15 miles or 20 minutes from the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. There is no hotel shuttle. A taxi or limo will cost approximately \$42 each way. You can also book with Super Shuttle for around \$25. For more information, go to www.supershuttle.com.

WWII Marines, wives and widows traveling by yourselves -- let us know on the Registration Form if you need transportation from the airport. We will arrange to have someone pick you up.

HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

- Free cook-to-order and buffet breakfast each morning
- Free evening happy hour with drinks and snacks
- On site restaurant serving lunch and dinner, plus room service
- 60 restaurants within a mile and a half
- One block from the Paradise Valley Mall
- Shuttle to restaurants and shopping within one-mile
- Outdoor pool
- Fitness center
- Adjacent 18-hole golf course with driving range and putting green (discount for hotel guests)
- Free self parking
- Check in — 3:00 pm
Check out — 12:00 noon

HOW SUITE IT IS...

- \$91 rate (\$102.44 with tax) for a two-room suite with one king or two double beds
- Limited number of wheel chair accessible rooms — *reserve early if you need one*
- All suites include:
 - * Private bedroom with one king or two double beds
 - * Separate living area with queen sleeper sofa and armchair
 - * Small kitchenette with refrigerator, microwave and wet bar
 - * Private balcony
 - * Two large-screen TVs
 - * In-room safe
 - * Free WiFi
- Special room rates are available 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion dates



Sixth Marine Division Association 2017 Reunion

FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, August 16

- **Musical Instrument Museum**
- **Lunch at the Steeds**
- **One-of-a-kind USMC Museum**



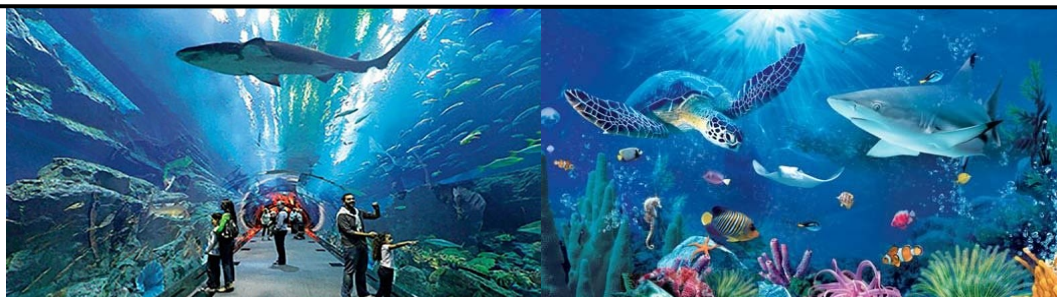
Yes, you'll see 6500 instruments from 200+ countries and territories on display. But it's so much more! These instruments are brought to life through your own special headphones, so you can hear them in their original cul-

tural settings -- like in no other museum in the world! It's a history lesson, geography lesson and cultural experience all rolled into one stunning museum. Jean raves about it! (*Go to mim.org to learn more.*)

We'll also go to Jean and Bill's home where they will treat us to a catered lunch as their way of honoring the Sixth. As if hosting the reunion isn't enough! And don't forget to check out Bill's personal Marine Corps Museum!

Thursday, August 17

- **OdySea Aquarium**
- **Lunch on your own at one of several on-site restaurants**



Follow the journey of a drop of water as it falls from the sky into lakes and rivers and eventually into the vast ocean. At each stage you'll experience a unique environment teeming with animal and plant life to explore!

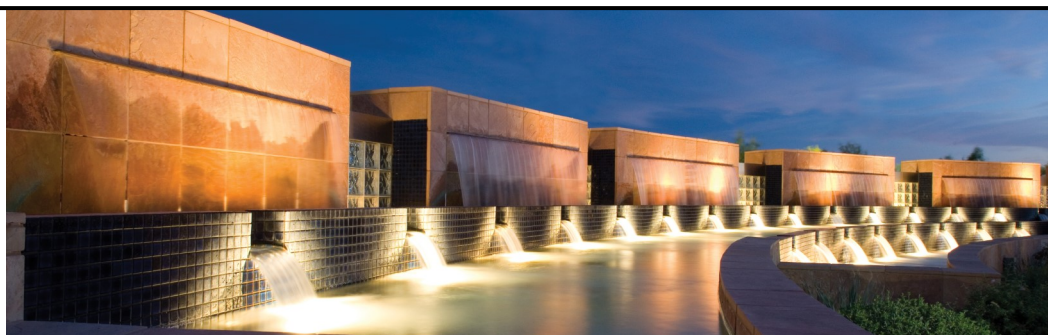
This is your chance to get up close and personal with otters and penguins and sharks, oh my! And that's just the beginning. Think 2 million gallons of water, 500 different species and 50 different exhibits! All in the Southwest's largest aquarium.

You'll be on your own for lunch. Stop in the Aquarium's Light-house Café or try one of the 20 other restaurants on the OdySea in the Desert property.

(*Go to odyseaaquarium.com for more info.*)

Friday, August 18

- **Casino Arizona**
- **Lunch on your own at one of several onsite restaurants**



Get ready to test your luck -- or skill! -- with 900 state-of-the-art play slots, plus keno, poker, blackjack and more.

When you get hungry, choose from fine dining, casual dining and buffet dining -- whatever strikes your fancy.

And don't forget to bring your lucky charm!

(*Get more information at casinoarizona.com*)

Sixth Marine Division Association 2017 Reunion

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 15

Cost per person

6:00-9:00 am	Free Breakfast at hotel for each hotel guest	
8:00 am-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room (open all day)	
10:00 am-10:00 pm	Registration (Hospitality Room)	
5:30-7:30 pm	Free Happy Hour at hotel for each hotel guest	
6:30-8:30 pm	Re-Unite! "Hello Arizona" Reception with hors d'oeuvres, music & catching up!	\$10.00

Wednesday, August 16

6:00-9:00 am	Free Breakfast at hotel for each hotel guest	
8:00 am-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room (open all day)	
10:00 am-10:00 pm	Registration (Hospitality Room)	
9:15 am-3:00 pm	Tour of the world-class Musical Instrument Museum followed by lunch at the home of Bill & Jean Steed Includes Bill's Marine Corps collection and bus transportation	adults \$40.00 teens \$35.00 kids (4-12) \$30.00
11:00 am-3:00 pm	- or - Lunch at Steeds only, with bus transportation	lunch/bus only \$20.00
5:30-7:30 pm	Free Happy Hour at hotel for each hotel guest	
7:30 pm-9:00 pm	Executive Board Meeting, Hotel	

Thursday, August 17

6:00-9:00 am	Free Breakfast at hotel for each hotel guest	
8:00 am-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room (open all day)	
10:00 am-10:00 pm	Registration (Hospitality Room)	
9:15 am-3:00 pm	Tour of the amazing new OdySea Aquarium Includes bus transportation but lunch is on your own at one of several restaurants	seniors (62+) \$49.00 adults \$51.00 kids (3-12) \$41.00
5:30-7:30 pm	Free Happy Hour at hotel for each hotel guest	
6:30-8:30 pm	Dinner Buffet at the hotel plus "Rock'n Memories" with Pam and Bruce performing oldies but goodies	\$25.00

Friday, August 18

6:00-9:00 am	Free Breakfast at hotel for each hotel guest	
8:00 am-10:00 pm	6thMarDiv Hospitality Room (open all day)	
9:15 am-2:00 pm & 2:15-5:00 pm	Casino Arizona -- 2 trips -- slots, blackjack, keno & more! Includes bus transportation, but lunch is on your own	\$20.00
12 noon-2:00 pm	Ladies Luncheon	\$25.00
5:30-7:30 pm	Free Happy Hour at hotel for each hotel guest	
7:00-10:00 pm	General Meeting & Amazing Action-Packed Annual Auction!	

Saturday, August 19

6:00-9:00 am	Free Breakfast at hotel for each hotel guest	
10:00 am	Annual Memorial Service with color guard, singer & bag piper followed by group and family photos	
5:30-6:30 pm	Reception/Social Hour (cash bar)	
6:30-10:00 pm	Grand Banquet — dinner, guest speaker, installation of officers & great entertainment	\$47.00

Sixth Marine Division Association 2017 Reunion

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Please Return This Form by July 14!

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
☐ Will take Wheelchair on field trips ☐ Special Needs: (please specify)

☐ Special Dietary Needs: (please specify) _____

☐ Will bring auction item ☐ Willing to help clean up hospitality room one night
☐ Willing to help as needed

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS (for our information)

Will be arriving in Phoenix by _____ on _____
(Mode of Transportation) (Arrival Date)

For Sixth Division Marines, wives and widows who are traveling with no family members only:

Do you want us to pick you up at the airport? _____ We would be happy to do so!

Note: Please be sure you fly into Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX)

Please provide your airline, flight # and arrival time & date:

Please provide your airline, flight # and departure time & date for your flight home:

Cell phone # while traveling: (____) _____

For all other guests: We regret that we are not able to assist you with getting to and from the airport. Please plan to take a taxi (approximately \$42) or reserve a shuttle (approximately \$25) such as SuperShuttle -- www.supershuttle.com.

If you are interested in sharing a room, please call Jean and she will try to match you with someone. (same sex only!)

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM, Page 2

Tuesday, August 15

10:00 am-10:00 pm **Registration**
6th Division Veteran: \$25 (spouse free) # 6th veterans _____ x \$25 = \$ _____
6th Division Assn Members & Guests: # others _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

6:30-8:30 pm **"Hello Arizona" Reception** (hotel) --
hors d'oeuvres, music and socializing # attending _____ x \$10 = \$ _____

Wednesday, August 16

9:15 am-3:00 pm **Tour of Musical Instrument Museum** -- # adults _____ x \$40 = \$ _____
includes lunch at the Steeds (no charge) # teens _____ x \$35 = \$ _____
and bus transportation # kids (4-12) _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

11:00 am-3:00 pm **- or - Lunch at Steeds only**
(includes bus transportation, but lunch is free) # _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Thursday, August 17

9:15 am-3:00 pm **Tour of OdySea Aquarium** -- # seniors (62+) _____ x \$49 = \$ _____
lunch is on your own, but price includes # adults _____ x \$51 = \$ _____
bus transportation # kids (3-12) _____ x \$41 = \$ _____

6:30-8:30 pm **Dinner Buffet** (hotel)
Entertainment by Pam and Bruce # _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Friday, August 18

9:15 am-2:00 pm **Casino Arizona -- 2 trips** -- lunch is on your own; # _____ x \$20 = \$ _____
2:15-5:00 pm price is for bus transportation

12:00 noon-2:00 pm **Ladies Luncheon** (hotel) # _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

7:00-10:00 pm **General Meeting & Auction** (Hospitality Room) # _____ (for planning purposes)

Saturday, August 19

10:00 am **Memorial Service** (hotel) # _____ (for planning purposes)

5:30-6:30 pm **Reception/Social Hour** (hotel, cash bar)

6:30-10:00 pm **Grand Banquet** (hotel)
Please indicate # and choice:

Beef	# _____	x \$47 = \$ _____
Chicken	# _____	x \$47 = \$ _____
Vegetarian	# _____	x \$47 = \$ _____

Total due for all events: \$ _____

Make check payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn. 2017 Reunion

Please complete both pages of this form and mail with your check by July 14 to:

**Jean Steed
7507 East Roy Rogers Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85266**

Jean's cell: (480) 518-0077, e-mail: jean.steed@azmoves.com Bill's cell: (480) 518-0088

2016 Reunion

2016 REUNION ATTENDEES

Clyde Baulch
Toni Baulch Cooper
Pam Bloustine
Mary & Parker Brauer
Randy & Mark Cassity
William & Kikue Cloud
Watson & Margaret Crumbie
Harold & Karen Crumbie
Jeanine & Gary Michaelson
Edward Debnam
Amy Debnam Boyd
Janet Debnam Green
Flo Dornan
Gail Engler
Marvin Gromley
Harry Grover
Sally & Larry Slomka
Don Honis
Heidi & Adam Calhoun
Connie Houseweart
David Hilner
Paul & Shirley Judd
Karen Kelly
Joseph W. Kite
Joseph L. & Barbara Kite
Tiffany & Adam Leggett
Dale Marsh
George McAfee
Jim McAfee

Neal McCallum
Pfuong Riles
Jane & Bob McCalmont
Bob & Carroll McGowan
Harry & Barbara McKnight
Jim Monbeck
William & Mary Jane Most
Patricia Payne
Sam Petriello
Joseph Petriello
D.C. Rigby
Jim Rigby
Carolyn Risher
Pauline Roberts
Sue & Dave Rueth
Janet Russell
Harry Sandlaufer
Kathy Schadt
Bill & Jean Steed
Mary Walker
Kenneth & Natalie Wells
John & Lilly Whalen
Robert, Annette & Edward Whalen
Ed Willauer Jr.
Joan Willauer
Rick Willauer
Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO MADE DONATIONS FOR THE 2016 REUNION!

Pam Bloustine
Mary & Parker Brauer
Randy Cassity
Connie Houseweart
Robert Houston
Jim Monbeck
Oklahoma Marine Corps Coordinating Council
Patricia Payne
Bridget Reineking
Pfuong Riles
Pauline Roberts
Sue & Dave Rueth
Janet Russell
Kathy Schadt
Sooner Detachment, Marine Corps League
Ed Willauer Jr.
Joan Willauer
Rick Willauer
Sharon & Gregg Woodhouse

We know -- and regret -- that this list is not complete and that we are missing many who donated auction items, cash, etc. There were also many who volunteered in the hospitality room, at our events and on our excursions plus many who purchased auction items.

We thank you all so much!



Marines and lineal descendants at the 2016 Reunion

Sixth Marine Division Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Embassy Suites, Norman, Oklahoma ~ Friday, August 26, 2016

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

Roll Call:

President Houseweart took the roll call in Secretary Benedetti's absence.

Officers:

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

Unit Directors:

4 th Marines	George Scott - Absent
15 th Marines	Vacant
22 nd Marines	Alio Benedetti - Absent
29 th Marines	Neal McCallum - Present
6 th Motor Transportation Bn	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion	Vacant
6 th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta - Absent
6 th Pioneer Battalion	Marty Gromley - Present
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6 th Recon Co.	Joe Singleton - Absent
6 th JASCO	George McAfee - Present
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

President Houseweart declared a quorum was in attendance (at least 30 members).

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

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the invocation. He requested a moment of silence and prayer for 22nd Marines Unit Director Alio Benedetti who was unable to attend the reunion due to a recent illness.

Approval of Minutes of August 21, 2015:

Ken Wells, seconded by Natalie Wells, moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2015 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: Absent; no report.

Treasurer Sharon Woodhouse:

The report covered the period of August 15, 2015 to August 20, 2016 (attached). Beginning Balance of \$40,261.71, Revenues of \$6,505.00, Expenses of \$15,795.63, Ending Balance of \$30,971.08.

Chaplain Harry McKnight:

Chaplain McKnight asked everyone to let him know of anyone passing as soon as possible and to provide a phone number or address so he can send the Association's condolences.

Editor Carroll McGowan:

No report. As acting secretary in Lisa Benedetti's absence, Carroll said she would ask Lisa to file the minutes from the 2015 annual meeting now that they have been approved.

Judge Advocate Bob McGowan: No report.

Membership Chairman Jim White:

Connie reported for Jim White. She reviewed the membership report (attached). Total membership is 1,928 members as of August 13, 2016.

Public Relations Officer Jim Monbeck: Absent; no report.

Service Officer - Vacant: No report.

Past President Sam Petriello: No report.

UNIT DIRECTORS' REPORTS:

George McAfee, 6th JASCO Unit Director reported that he had called several people in the past year. There were no other Unit Director reports.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Nominating Committee:

The Nominating Committee included Connie Houseweart, Tiffany Leggett and Gregg Woodhouse. Connie presented the slate of officers for 2016-17 as follows:

President –	Connie Houseweart
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

2015 Reunion: No report.

Membership:

Connie Houseweart stated the Board of Directors approved the Membership Manager's contract for 2017 for Flo Dornan. The amount is \$250 per month. There was some discussion about whether we should continue to pay for membership services or have someone do it as a volunteer, but there was no motion to make changes to the current arrangement.

Bylaws Committee: No report.

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Striking Sixth

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

(continued from previous page)

Scholarship Committee:

Bob McGowan reported that four students received Sixth Marine Division Association scholarships of \$2,500 each for 2016-17. There were two additional applications that were incomplete due to issues with missing DD214s. Bob resolved this with the CEO of the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation so it should not be a problem going forward.

Bob also reported that there is \$390 left in the scholarship fund, and therefore, the Association must decide if we should donate additional funds for scholarships.

Carroll McGowan reviewed the Association's financial position. She said the Association currently has about \$30,000 in the treasury. Yearly expenses include \$3,000 for the Membership Manager, \$1,500 for the newsletter (dues for subscriptions less costs), \$1,000 for the reunion (the Association picks up some of the expenses to keep costs down for attendees), and \$500 in misc. At this rate, we have enough funds to cover expenses for approximately five years. Carroll also noted that we need to have enough funds to cover upfront deposits for the reunion venues. Based on these numbers, she believes the most we should consider donating to the scholarship fund is \$5,000, which would cover two scholarships for 2017-18.

There was a lengthy discussion about reducing expenses in order to fund more scholarships. For example, we could lower the cost of the newsletter by reducing the number of pages, eliminating color pages, or e-mailing the newsletter. We could also look at scaling back the reunions or eliminating Association subsidies. Marty Gromley stated – to much applause – that the Sixth Marine Division Association is for the Marines first and foremost. He said he is not against scholarships, but we should not lower the quality of the newsletter or the reunions to fund scholarships.

It was also pointed out that the number of students applying for scholarships will continue to decline as only children and grandchildren of Sixth Marine Division veterans are eligible.

George McAfee made the following motion, which was seconded by Kathy Schadt:

The Sixth Marine Division Association will continue to support the Scholarship Fund for next year (2017-18) at an amount to be determined. The votes were 13 in favor and 24 opposed. Motion defeated.

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:

Officers:

President Houseweart asked if there were any other nominations for officers from the floor. There were none.

Sam Petriello, seconded by Marty Gromley, moved to close the nominations and cast a vote for the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee. All in favor, motion carried.

The following were elected officers for 2016-17:

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 –	Jim Monbeck
Service Officer –	Vacant

Unit Directors:

President Houseweart reviewed the current Unit Directors and asked if there were volunteers for any of the vacant positions.

Sharon Woodhouse, seconded by Ken Wells, moved to vote for the following Unit Directors. All in favor; motion carried.

Unit Directors Elected for 2016-17:

4 th Marines	George Scott
15 th Marines	Sam Petriello*
22 nd Marines	Alio Benedetti
29 th Marines	Neal McCallum
6 th Motor Transportation Bn	Vacant
6 th Medical Battalion	Vacant
6 th Engineering	Vacant
6 th Tank Battalion	Sal Mistretta
6 th Pioneer Battalion	Marty Gromley
6 th Headquarters Battalion	Joe Kite*
6 th Recon Co.	Joe Singleton
6 th JASCO	George McAfee
1 st Amphibs	Vacant

**New directors for 2016-2017*

2017 Nominating Committee:

President Houseweart asked for nominations of two members at large to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2017.

Patty Payne and Marty Gromley were elected to the Nominating Committee for 2017.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ladies Auxiliary:

Barb McKnight reported that the Ladies Auxiliary voted to disband at its meeting earlier in the day. Since the Ladies can now vote in the Association (approved at the 2015 annual meeting), there is no longer a need for a separate ladies group. The ladies voted to transfer the monies remaining in their treasury to the Sixth Marine Division Association. Barb noted that the ladies will continue the tradition of having a ladies lunch at future reunions.

Honorary Membership:

Sam Petriello said the Association would like to make Karen Kelly an honorary member and cited her work with Pam Bloustine on the 2016 reunion. This was approved. Sam also thanked Pam and Joan Willauer for hosting the reunion.

Presentations for Reunion 2017:

Sharon Woodhouse made a proposal to hold the 2017 reunion in Quantico. The Holiday Inn in Quantico (where the 2013 and 2014 reunions were held) has again

(continued on next page)

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

(continued from previous page)

offered a rate of \$99.00 with 13% tax for September 19-24, 2017. All events, including the banquet, would be held at the hotel, with the exception of the Memorial Service, which would be held at the Museum Chapel. Events would include a barbecue on the hotel patio and a chorale program. The Association would hire a bus to take everyone to the chapel for the Memorial Service, and also to make trips to the museum on one of the days. The possibility of a field trip to 8th and I in Washington D.C. will also be explored.

Barb McKnight asked if the date could be changed to August to accommodate teachers. Sharon said the Holiday Inn did not have any available dates in August.

Pam Bloustine said she would like to see the 2017 reunion on the west coast so it would be easier for Association members from western states to attend. Connie asked if there were any proposals for the west coast. Jean Steed said she and her husband Bill would be willing to host a reunion in Scottsdale, Arizona. She did not have any specifics, but she said that the June to September time period would work best since hotel rates are low then. She acknowledged that it would be hot, but pointed

out that everything is air conditioned in Arizona.

There was a lengthy discussion about whether or not it would be appropriate to vote for a reunion site without details or dates. Some argued that the hotel and room rates should be provided before the vote. The Bylaws were reviewed, and there is no stipulation regarding what must be in a reunion proposal. Some members felt Jean should do more research and come back with more specifics. Ken Wells suggested letting the Board decide on the reunion site once Jean had the details, but some board members indicated they were reluctant to make that decision for the membership. It was noted that there is no way to poll members outside of the annual meeting.

Tiffany Leggett, seconded by Ken Wells, moved that members vote on the two proposals on the floor.

A show of hands was taken for each proposal and Scottsdale (22) was chosen as the 2017 reunion site over Quantico (15).

Chaplain Harry McKnight gave the benediction.

Adjournment 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Carroll McGowan

Attachments to Minutes:

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION Financial Statement 2015-16

Beginning Balance August 15, 2015	\$40,261.71	
Revenue		
Membership/dues	\$4,925.00	
2015 Reunion	1,580.00	
		6,505.00
Expenses		
Printing of newsletters	3,634.78	
Membership Manager	3,502.60	
2015 Reunion	2,668.19	
2016 Reunion	2,664.06	
Misc.	100.00	
Ladies Auxiliary—		
2014 Auction Proceeds	3,226.00	
		(15,795.63)
Ending balance August 20, 2016	\$30,971.08	



TO: JIM WHITE, Membership Chairman August 13, 2016
FROM: Flo Dornan, Membership Manager

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER 2016 REPORT

After removing deceased members, those lost by "bad addresses" and those who have requested to be dropped from their membership, there are 1,928 members on the roster. The following is based on those 1,928 names as of August 13, 2016 with annual dues paid from 2014:

Membership:

Regular Life Members	1,080
Regular Annual – Current*	46
Associate Life Members	623
Associate Annual – Current*	6
Associate LD Life Members	126
Associate LD Annual – Current*	33
Organizations: 6; Honorary Members: 8	14
Current* - Dues paid for 2014 - 2020	1,928

There are a total of 378 members whose newsletters have been returned by the USPS without a new or forwarding address and 58 members who requested to be dropped from the membership because of health issues or because all their friends are gone. There are 365 widows who are associate members and 38 are up-to-date on their newsletter subscriptions for 2016 and beyond and 105 have had newsletters returned.

Newsletter Subscriptions:

The following are the number of currently paid subscribers to the newsletter as of August 13, 2016:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017-24</u>
Regular Members	39	67	76
Associate Members	14	17	24
Associate LD Members	12	27	14

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Dornan
Membership Manager

cc: Connie Houseweart
Lisa Benedetti

From the Historian's Corner

THE FOUR FREEDOMS

Whether called public relations, self-promotion or propaganda, the value of communicating U.S. war aims during the Second World War cannot be understated. Especially in this global conflict, which required the involvement of all its citizenry, the ability to convince them that what they were doing was in everyone's best interest was crucial. The sacrifice and collaboration of citizens was unlike anything we have seen before or since. Although propaganda impacted the fighting men, it affected citizenry on the home front and galvanized them into being an important front for the war effort.

In the United States an example of the effective use of communications was a campaign known as the *Four Freedoms* campaign. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was a gifted communicator. On January 6, 1941, he addressed Congress, delivering the historic "Four Freedoms" speech. At a time when Western Europe lay under Nazi domination, Roosevelt presented a vision in

which the American ideals of individual liberties were extended throughout. He presented a picture of war aims to which every American could relate. One of the Americans who was listening to that speech, and who was greatly moved by it, was Norman Rockwell. He would spend the next six months painting his vision of the ideals Roosevelt talked about, creating four oil paintings, each 45.75 inches × 35.5 inches.

Rockwell originally offered the paintings to the government to use in a public relations campaign, but he was rejected. Eventually in 1943, the *Saturday Evening Post*, one of the most popular magazines of the time, published the paintings accompanied by articles by some of the premier thinkers of the time. Rockwell's sentimental depictions of Roosevelt's abstract concepts became widely popular across America and made people think about who we were as Americans.

Following this, the U.S. government undertook a highly successful war bond campaign using Rockwell's paintings. They toured all over the country, and the campaign raised more than \$132 million for the war effort.

For people all over the world these ideals were easy to understand. Their concepts were included in the Atlantic Charter and part of the charter for the United Nations. As a propaganda tool during World War II, they were an effective apparatus for fund raising and for articulating the reasons why some things are worth fighting for, despite the cost.

These iconic paintings transcend time and place and continue to illustrate the resolve that Americans showed in defense of ideals that were more valuable than themselves.

~Laura H. Lacey



Freedom From Want



Freedom From Fear



Freedom of Speech



Freedom to Worship

From the Historian's Corner

HORSESHOE AND HALF MOON HILLS

When discussing the Sixth Division on Okinawa, much attention is given to Sugar Loaf Hill and folding the twelve-mile Shuri-Yonabaru line from 12-19 May 1945. Far less attention is given to the two other hills that were part of that sector and that also needed to be taken to successfully fold the Shuri Line. Those two hills – Half Moon and Horseshoe – also faced withering fire during the same period. Although Sugar Loaf may have been the “spearhead,” as James Hallas points out in *Killing Ground on Okinawa*, Half Moon and Horseshoe served as the base. The terrain and fortifications and how they were taken – by sure Marine determination – would become part of Marine Corps lore. The whole corridor created difficulties that were almost unimaginable:

"The sharp depression included within the Horseshoe afforded mortar positions that were almost inaccessible to any arm short of direct, aimed rifle fire and hand grenades. Any attempt to capture Sugar Loaf by flanking action from east or west is immediately exposed to flat trajectory fire from both of the supporting terrain features. Likewise, an attempt to reduce either the Horseshoe or the Half Moon would be exposed to destructive, well-aimed fire from Sugar Loaf itself. In addition, the three localities are connected by a network of tunnels and galleries, facilitating the covered movement of reserves. As a final factor in the strength of the position it will be seen that all sides of Sugar Loaf Hill are precipitous, and there are no evident avenues of approach into the hill mass. For strategic location and tactical strength, it is hard to conceive of a more powerful position than the Sugar Loaf terrain afforded. Added to all the foregoing was the bitter fact that troops assaulting this position presented a clear target to enemy machine guns, mortars, and artillery emplaced on the Shuri heights to their left and left rear."

The goal was to attack an area between Shuri and Naha that was a “1,000-yard-wide corridor.” Then the Marines were to head south and east and encircle Shuri castle. The Sixth and First Marine Di-

visions would be given this task. The area was defended by about 2,500 men of Colonel Seiko Mita's 15th Independent Infantry Regiment and other attached units. The Japanese soldiers were dug in and had created almost a “perfect static defense.” Additionally, for years the area between Shuri Castle and the sea had been home to artillery units, and they had every inch of the ground sited in. They knew how to turn it into a meat grinder, and that is exactly what they did.

The starting place for some of the Sixth Division's assault up the Shuri valley began on Charlie Hill, which was far more imposing than Sugar Loaf. In fact, Sugar Loaf was so small it did not appear on U.S. topographical maps. Before the war, it had been a popular picnic spot for Okinawans. The Japanese called it Hill 51.2. The point of attack forward, for much of the 29th Regiment, was to be Half Moon. Half Moon, named for its shape, was also called Crescent Hill; it was a quarter mile southeast of Sugar Loaf. The other hill in this mutual supporting triad was Horseshoe, which was less than 200 yards south of Sugar Loaf and was

also referred to as Kings Hill. The sharp depression within the Horseshoe afforded mortar positions that were almost inaccessible.

The problem with taking these hills was the withering interlocking fire the Japanese were raining down on the attempted Marine advance. The men trying to advance on Half Moon were bombarded from caves; on the south slope, mortar fire, small arms and machine gun fire kept them pinned down. However, securing Half Moon and Horseshoe were key to being able to take Sugar Loaf. The next few days would involve continued attempts and withdrawals,

with 16 May being the worst day of the assault of the Shuri Line. Yet by the next morning, a large portion of Half Moon was held by Marines, and this gave the Marines on Sugar Loaf some relief

(continued on next page)



Historian's Corner

(continued from previous page)

from the withering fire that had previously rained down on them. On 18 May, a diversionary attack on both Half Moon and Horseshoe drew much of the enemy fire away. This allowed a force of tanks and infantry to rush around the hill's left flank, attack Sugar Loaf from the rear, and rout the remaining defenders so they were forced to withdraw from Sugar Loaf. This would in turn cause Ushijima to withdraw from the Shuri Line and head south.

There were, of course, the personal stories as well. Stories of courage and of brutal deaths. The fact that men continued to try taking the hills while walking over the bodies of fallen enemies and fellow Marines still seems like an unbelievable nightmare. Conditions were unbearable. It was the rainy season, and that made the conditions for the living – and the dead – much worse. Tanks were bogged down, so supplies had to be brought to the front by hand. Dead bodies sunk in the mire and attracted flies, which was a continual reminder to the troops of what might be in store for them. Eugene Sledge, a member of the First Marine Division that was busy rolling up the other side of the Shuri Line, wrote about the horrible conditions that spring on Okinawa in *With the Old Breed*: “Cold rain caused the soldiers’ skin to shrivel and whiten from exposure, while infiltrators ensured that few Marines ever caught more than a moment of rest. Incidences of combat fatigue soared.” Sledge, who had survived grisly combat at Peleliu, concluded that Okinawa’s Wana Draw “was the most awful place conceivable for a man to be hurt or to die.”

Many of the men have expressed their belief that the nights were somehow the worst, yet often the most spectacular. Naval ships “softened up” the forward areas, while flares lit the night sky. In *On the Point of the Spear*, Jim White (29th Mar-3-G) writes about the night sky during May 1945. He recounts that the sky was lit by parachute flares, as both sides tried to turn the night into a usable battle field – allowing Americans and Japanese alike to look for enemy movement. Continues

White, “Since flares were point sources of light, the shadows those moving lights caused sometimes gave strange appearances to ordinary objects as the flares approached the ground.” The Marines were warned that if caught in the light, it was best to stay still. The time could seem much longer when one was so exposed! Night also meant that a Japanese soldier might sneak out of those interlocking caves to get behind American lines and kill Marines in their foxholes.



The aftermath of the battle for the Shuri Line left havoc in its wake. Eugene Sledge and the First Marine Division would end up occupying the area known as Half Moon, and the area seemed to Sledge like a living nightmare – a true No Man’s land, except that this one was covered in dead bodies. Perhaps a better way to de-

scribe it would be a No Living Man’s Land. The infantry units of the Sixth were decimated. Jim White’s unit, for example, returned from Half Moon to Charlie Hill with only 20 men left out of some 240 who had landed. Only one officer was left and he had “cracked up.” That would be another price of the battle. Brutal conditions and endless days in continual peril left more than 1,000 men in the Sixth suffering from combat fatigue.

The last battle of the Pacific – Okinawa – will always be known for mud and death and trapped civilians and for Sugar Loaf. However, Asa Kawa, Wana Draw, Charlie Hill – and of course Half Moon and Horseshoe Hills – were also important in pushing the Japanese Thirty-Second Army off the Shuri Line and ultimately ending the Battle of Okinawa.

i Hallas, p. 54

ii 6th Mar Div SAR, Ph III, Part III, 5

iii Hallas, p. 34

iv Ibid, p. 54

v http://articles.latimes.com/1995-03-26/news/mn-47346_1_dog-tags-okinawan-water-tower

vi <http://www.historynet.com/battle-of-okinawa-the-bloodiest-battle-of-the-pacific-war.htm>

vii White, p 24-25

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n.d. “6th Mar Div SAR, Ph III, Part III, 5”

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Message from the Membership Manager

I want to remind you of three subjects that are important to the Association:

- 1) Please be sure you are current in dues and newsletter payments.
- 2) Please notify me of your new address or you won't receive your copy of the "Striking Sixth." The Postal Service will not forward newsletters because they are not first class mail. I have an extreme number of folks whose addresses have been reported by the Postal Service as "Unknown" or "Unable to Forward." Anyone knowing a member who moved and did not advise me, please send me their name and new address.
- 3) Please notify Chaplain Harry McKnight (614-866-3456 or harrym1677@aol.com) and me (phone and e-mail below) when a member of the Association passes away. Harry needs the information so he can contact the member's family. I need to prepare the Taps list for the newsletter and the Memorial Service at the annual reunion. (Note: This is a good way to notify friends of the deceased.) I also need to keep the Association's records up to date.



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

Donations — Thank You!

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New Members*

CASSITY, Mark, ID #6232
Associate LD Life Member
Son of Randall Q. Cassity
(4th Mar-2-E)
Spouse: Jeannette
173 Lakeshore Drive
Rainbow City, AL 35906
250-442-8681

ENGLER, Gail A., ID #6233
Associate LD Life Member
Daughter of George N. Engler
(15th Mar-3-G)
2829 NW 56th Street, Apt. 306
Seattle, WA 98107
206-735-0800
Cody24gracie@hotmail.com

KITE, Joseph L., ID #6234
Associate LD Annual Member
Son of Joseph W. Kite Jr.
(29th Mar-HQ)
Spouse: Barbara
1563 Lakeview South
Lake Lafayette, MO
816-517-9264
JLK1621@juno.com

**We are a little behind in reporting new memberships due to lack of space. We will try to get caught up with the next issue.*

MEMBERSHIP STATUS @ March 9, 2017

Regular Members	1,072
Associate Members	628
Lineal Descendants	150
Honorary Members	8
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	1,858
(dues paid for 2017-2020)	

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS @ March 9, 2017

Paid for 2016	61
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Membership Application / Change of Address Form

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Name _____

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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 _____

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His unit within the Division, if known _____

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

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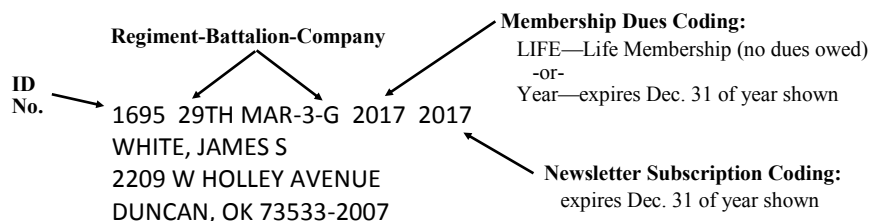
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Please remember: Membership dues are separate from Newsletter subscriptions.

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

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.

AUTRY, Eldon W.	22 nd Mar-1-HQ	12/10/2003
BERTRAM, Harry R.	29 th Mar-3-I	02/22/2017
BROWN, James W. (Jim)	6 th Tank Bn-C	10/17/2016
COLLINS, Floyd A.	4 th Mar-2-E	02/00/2017
D'ANGELO, Ralph L.	29 th Mar-HQ	12/31/2016
DAUER, William	22 nd Mar-2-E	11/03/2016
DEBNAM, Edward D.	22 nd Mar-Wpns	11/21/2016
FOLEY, James M.	6 th Marine Division	12/14/2016
FORGIT, Lorenzo (Les)	29 th Mar-HQ-Band	05/19/2016
FUIKS, Richard James	6 th Marine Division	12/00/1996
GILBERTSON, Orrie E.	6 th Marine Division	12/16/2016
GRAYHEK, Leroy	4 th Marines	02/11/2014
HALL, James W.	29 th Mar-2-E	01/26/2017
HANSON, Orville	6 th Motor Transport	04/25/1989
HARVARD, Thomas Earl	6 th Motor Transport	08/10/2008
HILL, Bryce F. Jr.	22 nd Mar-1-B	12/24/2016
HONIS, Donald (Don)	29 th Mar-3-I	02/14/2017
KINNEY, Margaret	Wife of Herbert Kinney	04/07/2016
KRAUSS, George F.	22 nd Mar-3-I	01/21/2017
PARKER, Robert	22 nd Mar-1-A	06/28/2016
SPADACCIA, Joseph	29 th Mar-2-F	11/06/2016
STRINGHAM, Charlie	29 th Mar-2-F	03/01/2017
TWIGGER, William (Bill)	29 th Mar-2-F	01/12/2017
WELCH, (Oliver) Ray	29 th Mar-2-F	11/17/2016
WHALEN, John	22 nd Mar-1-B	01/03/2017

Reporting Deaths

Deaths should be reported ASAP to:

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

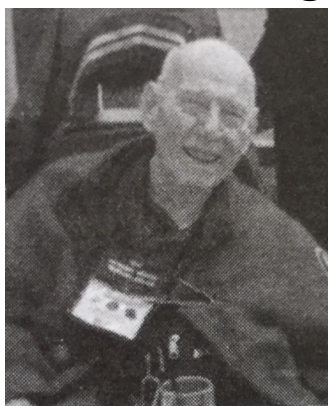
AND

Harry McKnight, Chaplain
(614) 866-3456
harrym1677@aol.com

Bill Twigger, Quantico 2013



Remembering Good Times with Good Friends



James Hall, Portland 2012



Harry Bertram and Don Honis, Columbus 2015



Ray Welch, Tiffany Leggett, and
Ozzie Aasland, Quantico 2014

Sixth Marine Division Association 2017 Reunion

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Dolphinaris

Have you always wanted to kiss a dolphin? Jump in the water and swim with the dolphins -- or say hello from dry land -- but don't miss this chance to spend quality time with these playful, intelligent mammals! Dolphinaris is in the same compound as Butterfly Wonderland, so you can do them both in the same day.



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The site of Frank Lloyd Wright's winter home and school from 1937-1959, this is the perfect tour for architecture buffs and lovers of all things beautiful.

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Get your kicks on Route 66! Yes, it runs through Arizona! Other routes will take you to the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Monument Valley, beautiful Sedona, Tombstone and the OK Corral, Lake Powell, and ten amazing national monuments. You'll see mountains, mesas, buttes and spires, and of course spectacular desert scenery. Discover Arizona!



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Striking Sixth Newsletter

Spring 2017

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