



## **CORPORAL DANIEL REICHERT U. S. MARINE CORPS SIXTH MARINE DIVISION**



Daniel Reichert was born on November 26, 1922 in the area of Baltimore City called "Pig Town." He went to grade school at Bessie Ross #68 on Millington Ave. He then went to vocation school on Central Ave. and later enrolled in a trade school on Monroe and Baltimore Streets and learned the skills of sheet metal and drafting.

He had four sisters and one brother. His mother was a homemaker, raising and caring for the family. Daniel's father worked in the Union Stockyards of west Baltimore City. His Dad drove the pigs from the stockyards to the Heinz Slaughterhouse. Daniel helped his father driving the pigs. That was the reason why that section of Baltimore became known as "Pig Town" - practically everyone from Baltimore knows this story about the pigs, and to this day, it is called "Pig Town."

In February, 1943, in the middle of WW2, at the age of 19, Daniel and four others decided to join the Marines. They went downtown to the Main Post Office to sign up. Daniel was the only one they selected. He was sent to Paris Island, SC for three months. Then he was shipped to the Marine Corps Institute (MCI) at 8<sup>th</sup> and I Streets in Washington, DC for six months. Then he was off to Camp Lejuene, NC for three weeks.

He was then sent to Camp Pendleton, California by train. He was there for only two weeks when he and 3000 other Marines boarded a Liberty Troop Ship, destination Guam and Guadalcanal. He was in the Sixth Marine Division that was formed overseas.

Corporal Daniel Reichert was now 20 years old and in the striking force which was the security for the artillery - They had quite a scare while in convoy heading for the war zone. Their LST was loaded with tanks. They lost the ballast tank heading to Hawaii. Their Commander decided to dump the tank into the water, which resulted in leveling the ship and staying in the convoy.

They left Guadalcanal and invaded Okinawa on April, 1945. They had to clear the area before the artillery moved in - a very dangerous mission. Lots of his buddies were killed, including two from his squad. Daniel was the squad leader consisting of five men: one flame thrower, two machine gunners and three riflemen. Daniel was one of the riflemen. Daniel said he had killed enemy soldiers and saw a lot of the horrors of war, dead bodies, injured and dying soldiers. Daniel was in combat from April, 1945 until August, 1945.



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Seeing all the horrors of war and fighting right there in the middle of it took its toll on Daniel. He suffered many years from what they now call "post traumatic stress syndrome." He was in the hospital a year after being discharged for this condition. He kept everything bottled up inside and was not talking about the war. One of his doctors told him that he had to open up and talk about his terrible experience of the war if he wanted to get well.

One very interesting fact of his Marine Sixth Division. Daniel said that it was formed overseas and fought all over the South Pacific. When the war was over it was disbanded because there could not be a Sixth Division. If there was, then it would be called an Army and not a Corps. It was never used in the USA. If you look at the photo of his card, you can see their combat history of service.

August, 1945 they were sent to Guam for a rest for a couple of weeks. At this time, Japan surrendered and the War was over, but not yet, for Daniel. He was shipped to China for six months where their duty was to accept the surrender of the Japanese forces. They received many Unit Citations including one from Chiang Kai-shek, the President and Premier and Commander of the Army of the Chinese Republic. Daniel also received the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal. Besides serving in Guam and Guadalcanal, he served in Okinawa and China.

He was honorably discharged from the Marines on March, 1946 at the Bainbridge Naval Station. Corporal Daniel Reichert then signed up for four more years in the U.S. Marine Reserves from 1946 to 1950. In 1946 he got a job at the Chevrolet Plant working in the assembly line windshield department. He stayed there for six months.

Daniel attended the Maryland Institute, three nights a week, learning the sheet metal trade. He worked four years as an apprentice after which he became recognized as a mechanic. He joined the Local 100 Sheet Metal Workers Union. Daniel traveled all over the country and the world working on various jobs. He worked in South America, Bermuda, Venezuela and many other places. He worked installing air conditioning, ventilation, and heating, doing mostly commercial work.

Daniel married Margaret Delauder on January 29, 1949. They have one daughter, Sharon and a step daughter, Barbara. Altogether they have four grandchildren, Brandy Brianna, Eddie and Debbie. Daniel and Margaret were very happily married for 50 years. Margaret passed away Nov. 29, 1999. Daniel still misses her very much.

