

Colonel Louis T Dechert

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KWVA Members, I, LOUIS T DECHERT (Lou Dechert), President of The Korean War Veterans Association of the USA, am a candidate for reelection. You may get a good idea of what I believe and how I conduct business by checking my personal website [www.dechertsitreps.com], reading the "President's Update" as seen in the archives of the KWVA website [www.kwva.org] and reviewing the "President's Message" in *The Graybeards*, from November-December 2004 to the latest issue. *These are the viewable records of KWVA History as it has happened, not hearsay.*

I was born in Texas and spent my childhood years in Texas, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, due to my dad's moving in his assignments with the government. I graduated from high school in Kansas City, KS, 1948, and started college in Oklahoma. At that time I enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard. Just as the Korean War was beginning I was discharged from the 45th Inf Div, Oklahoma National Guard, after having married and moving to Kansas. Subsequently, I enlisted in the Regular Army in Kansas City, MO, and entered the service on a freezing winter morning, January 31, 1951, at Fort Riley, KS. Two years later I finished OCS and was on my way to Korea as a 2LT. An outstanding man in my OCS class was Gene Tinberg who is now KWVA Member R013807, Chapter 181. My highest enlisted rank was E5. My enlisted MOS was Infantry Squad Leader. My first officer MOS was Armored Unit Leader. My highest officer ranks were Lieutenant Colonel, RA, and Colonel, NG.

I retired from the Active US Army in 1973 after over 45 months of career combat experience in Korea, Vietnam and other assignments as a member of the US Army Special Forces. I was a recon platoon leader, tank platoon leader and tank company executive officer in the 40th Infantry Division in Korea. In Vietnam during several tours of duty, I was Special Forces Special Augmentation Commander (MACSOG), Deputy Commander, 5th Special Forces Group, and ACS, G3 and DCS,G3, of IFFVN then USAFMR2. During my twenty-three year Active Army career I earned 15 awards and decorations. I earned the CIB in Vietnam in my first Special Forces assignment. I have the personal award of the Distinguished Unit Citation ("Presidential Unit Citation") three times—once in Korea, and twice in Vietnam.

After Active Army retirement I worked as Vice President of an agribusiness corporation, defense consultant, state legislative lobbyist, manufacturing plant superintendent and manager, business development director and instructor, US Army contract employee, military aide to a state governor (NG), and owned my own consulting firm. Just prior to seeking the office of President of the KWVA I was employed by the US Army in preparing and testing US Army Special Forces elements deploying to Afghanistan and Iraq from Fort Polk, Louisiana.

I was a founding member of Central Louisiana (CENLA) Chapter 180, KWVA, in 1999, and have been President—now changed to Commander—of Chapter 180 since 2001. I am past Commander, Department of Louisiana, Military Order of the Purple Heart. I am a Life Member of MOPH, KWVA, 101st ABN ASSOC, SPEC FORCES ASSOC, ASSOC OF THE US ARMY, 40th INF DIV ASSOC and the VFW. I also belong to the AMERICAN LEGION, and have belonged to the DAV. I am the Executive Council Member for the Western Hemisphere, **International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations.**

In 2004 I ran for President of the KWVA and was elected with these four stated objectives:

- Restore self-respecting legal governance
- **Provide a revitalized vision of a veterans service organization (VSO)**
- **Continue and improve the unique *Graybeards***
- **Provide and encourage openness to proposals for organizational and financial changes.**

The non-partisan records of this organization and the evaluations of the US Department of Veterans Affairs and the Korea Veterans Association, Seoul Korea, all record that I held to and accomplished those objectives. I am seeking reelection in order to continue the accomplishments of the KWVA in the areas described above and to lead in accomplishing the following objectives, recently announced to the membership:

- Increase national respect
- Obtain a Federal Charter
- Increase accountability at every level
- Concentrate attention on "Good of the Order"
- Renew our focus on the 56 years of sacrifice in Korea
- Remember those who did not return home alive
- Honor our Korean allies
- Restore, maintain, and honor our National Memorial

If elected I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors. I understand that two unexcused absences could be reason for removal from office. I am life member LR27194.

Your support will be appreciated.

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