

Hello, I'm Doug Voss, Sr. Vice President of KWVA Chapter 306, West Michigan. This letter is to announce my candidacy for Director to serve from June 25, 2019 to June 25, 2021. My dues are paid for the coming year 2019. If elected I promise to attend all called meetings, and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office

I'm a Korea Defense Veteran that served along the Korean DMZ from Nov. 1968 to Dec. 1969. I have been a member of the KWVA for 3 years. I finished the term of Secretary/Treasure at Chapter 306 when the Sec. Treasure fell ill. Then I ran for Senior Vice President, and have held that position for almost 2 years. I also belong to the VFW, and 2nd Infantry Division Association.

My first contact with the KWVA was finding out Jeff Brodeur was working on the National Memorial to Korean Defense veterans that served and were KIA defending the R.O.K. and I wanted to help get Cosponsors for the Bill to establish the Korea Defense memorial. He signed me up as a member at large, also I was added to the Memorial Committee, and later I joined Chapter 306 West Michigan. I'm also on Missions and Visions Committee.

The Missions and Visions Committee had many teleconference meetings where we worked out an updated Mission and Vision statements. We are at the ready incase there are modifications to any of the statements. The Missions/Vision committee is great to work with.

Hannah Kim was scheduled to be at St. Joseph Michigan July 24th. I was point man for her to get everything she requested, and make sure the Korean War Memorial at Veterans Park was looking great. It all turned out fantastic. Hannah was pleased.

I had the honor of carrying the KWVA flag along side A.J. Key who carried our nation's colors into the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day 2018. Later we went to the Korean War Memorial for ceremonies there. Continuing annual ceremonies at the Korean War Veterans Memorial will be part of perpetuating the legacy of the Korean War. This is an important part of US History, especially the Cold War era, when Korea went hot June 25 1950, and should not be forgotten.

Issues I'm extremely interested in pertaining to Korea War Veterans, and Korea Defense Veterans are to perpetuate the legacy of the Korean War and Veterans from that war. The so called Forgotten War should never be forgotten, ever. Next is the use of herbicidal agents (Agent Orange) in Korea, which I witnessed myself on the DMZ and there is no doubt about their use. One of the real issues is, what is the half life of said herbicidal agents? Next, the lives of those KIA in the DMZ Conflict are not even known in the US. People don't even know there were deadly firefights along the DMZ. In the Republic of Korea there is a memorial to all that were KIA on the DMZ, Americans, and South Koreans alike. There is no such National Memorial in the USA for American KIA on the DMZ. I will work to see that there is a National Memorial to those Americans KIA along Freedoms Frontier, the DMZ, and in South Korea. It doesn't matter if life lost in battle is from a large scale war, or a small scale conflict like the DMZ conflict. Gold Star mothers grieve just as deeply if their son was killed along the DMZ, or in any of the huge battles of past wars. Next, the KWVA is evolving to seamlessly bring in more young Korea Defense veterans. This should continue, and be one of the top issues for the KWVA to tackle. Next, Ties with the government of the Republic of Korea, and organizations dealing with ties to the U.S. should be maintained. The R.O.K. is one of

our closest allies in the world. We have a unique situation verses other alliances to keep the ties active, and grow them. Also, with peace talks on the Korean Peninsula, we could witness something we thought would happen in our lifetime. I believe we should support denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, and pursue peace efforts, but be mindful of the past, and beware of potentials that could shatter the peace process.

Douglas Voss

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