

This letter is to announce my candidacy for KWVA Director, to serve from June 25, 2020-June 25, 2023. My dues are paid up for 4 years. If elected, I promise to attend all called meetings, and understand that two unexcused absences could result in my removal from office. I'm releasing the KWVA application form for verification of eligible service years.

I joined the Army June 1968, and was honorably discharged in July 1971. I was trained as a wheel vehicle mechanic but never worked in the MOS. I served in Korea, HHC 2/23 Inf 2ID, on the DMZ Nov. 1968 to Dec. 1969. I served as a recovery specialist, and Imjin Scout. I served in Schweinfurt Germany in A Trp. 3/7 Cav. 3ID as a Cavalry scout, Troop commander driver, turret mechanic, and recovery specialist. I joined the Michigan Nat. Guard in 1979 and left in 1981. I was a Forward Observer while serving there.

After I ETSed from Active service, I went to college for a degree in Political Science, but put that on the back burner to become a Tool and Die maker at General Motors. I retired from there in 2008.

I became interested in veterans organizations after realizing I missed the camaraderie in service to our nation. Pride in serving in the Armed Forces became stronger for me as time went on. I joined the VFW, 2nd Inf. Div. Assn, and the KWVA in 2014, first 2 years as member at large. I also belong to the Kent County Honor Guard for veteran's funerals. In the KWVA I was on the color Guard for 2018 at the Amphitheater in Arlington Nat. Cemetery. I'm also on the Missions and Visions Statements Committee, as well as the Korea Defense Veterans Memorial Committee. I've attended 2 funerals in Traverse City Michigan for two positively identified repatriated remains out of the 55 handed over the US at the Trump-Kim Singapore Summit in Jun 2018. There are 3 repatriated soldiers out of the 55 repatriated that are from the Traverse City MI area. I hope more remains will be repatriated to the US for identification. On the internet, I started the first Korean DMZ Vets Group on facebook, almost 10 years ago. It has steadily grown to almost 2,800 members. I started doing research on the DMZ, including the KIAs, WIA's, and POWs, during the years from July 27 1953, to the last American on patrol in the DMZ Nov. 1 1991. The mission on the DMZ, most people have no idea about, nor do most people believe us DMZ and Defense veterans when we tell them about the 89 KIA, and double that wounded, plus 95 POWs. Gold Star Mothers of DMZ and Defense veterans know the emptiness just as much as Gold Star Mothers do who lost their son or daughter in a full out war.

As a Director, there are 2 things at the top of my list of missions to pursue. One, grow the KWVA through recruiting. Two, honor Korean War Veterans, and make sure the Forgotten War is not forgotten. I do Talk America at schools and organizations. This is using Dr. Hans program. I also have a program geared to the Defense of Korea, and the Korean DMZ. The Korean War was a very gruesome war. That should never be forgotten, Ever. Also, good men lost their lives enforcing the terms of the Armistice of 1953, and I do everything I can to tell the truth about the DMZ Mission. I go to festivals and hand out applications for the KWVA there. I want to participate in meetings to learn, and contribute to the perpetuation of the KWVA. The Republic of Korea is a close ally, has grown immensely since the Korean War. R.O.K now is a democracy, and is a beacon of freedom in the Western Pacific. This is thanks to those that served and sacrificed the Korean Theater, and Post Armistice era. Kamsahamnida.

Doug Voss,
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12/9/2019