

MEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BRUCE R. HARDER

I hereby release this information for verification by the election committee.

I am proud to announce my candidacy for member of the KWVA Board of Directors.

I am a Life Member of KWVA and member of the Northern Virginia Chapter #100. In October 2016 I was nominated by President Tom Stevens and approved by the KWVA Board of Directors to fill a vacant position on the Board of Directors. In 2018, I was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors. In 2021, I am running for a second three-year term on the Board of Directors. I want to continue serving during the KWVA during this next critical three-year period of transition.

I joined the staff of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in August 2002 and was assigned to the personnel accounting directorate. I worked on the Korean War personnel accounting issue for 13 years. I was the senior policy & strategic planning analyst responsible for developing policy positions for the Director, DPAA, and team leader of the Northeast Asia personnel accounting policy team. I retired from federal civil service on July 31, 2015.

While working at DPAA, I visited the Korean Peninsula many times including two visits to North Korea (2002 and 2005) when DoD was conducting Korean War remains recovery operations in North Korea. I am a Korean Defense Veteran and have been awarded the Korea Defense Service Medal. KWVA members have a vast wealth of experience including those who have served in Korea during the Korean War and those who served in defense of the ROK after the armistice was signed. I feel very strongly that all KWVA members must work together to carry on the legacy of the Korean War veterans and build the KWVA into a fraternal veteran's organization that we can all be proud of.

From October 1997 until August 2002, I was the Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. While working for the VFW, I traveled to Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Russia, and worked on National Security and POW/MIA issues.

From 1969-70, I served a one-year tour in Vietnam, as an infantry platoon commander with the First Marine Division. My second Vietnam tour was from 1972-73. I was the intelligence officer for Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron 333, which was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin aboard the USS America. Subsequent tours of duty took me to a variety of locations at home and abroad where I held command and staff positions and took part in planning many joint and combined military exercises and operations. While I was assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa for 6 years, I deployed many times to the ROK to participate in contingency planning and to plan and execute amphibious field exercises and command post exercises for the defense of the ROK. I retired from active duty on December 31, 1997, as a Colonel with 27 years of active duty.

I hereby certify that I will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and that I understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for my removal from office.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce R. Harder, KWVA Life Member# LR 46746, 1047 Portugal Drive, Stafford, VA 22554,
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Bruce R. Harder 27 Nov 2020