



**THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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**MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2015
Washington, D.C.**

The following from the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association is given for the month of April 2015.

To: President and Board of Directors for the Korean War Veterans Association

LEGISLATIVE:

- The Korean War Veterans Association annual audit has been completed. Once again it was a very good report. One I receive the completed IRS 990 form; I will submit both reports along with the 2014 annual summary of accomplishments to the Honorable Trey Gowdy, as required by our Charter we received from the 110th Congress and signed into Public Law 11—254 on June 30, 2018.
- Director LT Whitmire and I will attend the National Veterans Day Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, in Washington, D.C. This meeting is to discuss the role of the Veterans Service Organizations and their roles in the annual Veterans Day ceremonies conducted at the White House and in Arlington National Cemetery on November 11th of each year. Each year a Veteran Service Organization is designated to be in charge of planning and executing this event. The Korean War Veterans Association is responsible for this special event in Calendar year 2017.
- I continue to labor on the submission of the “Private Letter of Ruling” to the IRS Commissioner located in Washington, D.C. that is requesting a waiver be submitted requesting all Korean Defense Veterans be authorized to count toward the 90% of veterans in our association be war veterans.
- I continue to work on applying for the “Private Letter of Ruling” we will need to enclose a check for \$10,000.00 for the processing fee.

I plan to have the drafts of these letters written and submitted prior to our General Meeting in July.

Proposed Name Change to the Korean War Veterans Association

- The results from our March Board meeting pertaining to the proposed name change has been posted on the Korean War Veterans Association website.

EVENTS/MEETINGS:

- As of April 30, 2015 the hotel registration for the 2015 Korean War Veterans Association General Membership Meeting stands at 50% of our rooms that need to be filled. Presently 60 folks have signed up to attend the General Membership meeting scheduled at the Doubletree by Hilton Washington, D.C. 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202 (Crystal City)
- The Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2015 commencing at 8:00AM at a designated room in the Doubletree Hotel.

- **Submissions for agenda items for the Board were due on Thursday, June 18, 2015.** Secretary Frank Cohee will be producing the agenda for the Board Meeting.
- Please send the word out to all your chapters that those attending the General Membership meeting in Washington, D.C. this July **must also register** on the KWVA website and sign up for the tours and functions they plan to attend. The registration form and agenda for the Annual Membership Meeting is on the KWVA Web Site.
- The commemoration committee for the July 22 – 27, 2015 events taking place in Washington, D.C. met on April 13, 2015 to continue to develop the agenda for July General Meeting and activities. The Committee members are:
 - Jim Fisher – Executive Director KWVA – Committee Chair
 - Rick Dean – Director, Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation
 - LTC JS Hong – Assistant Defense Attaché, Republic of Korea Embassy
 - Ms. Dayne Weber – President, Korean Youth Corps
 - Mr. Jang, Jeong Gyo – Ministry of Patriot and Veterans Affairs
- The agenda listed for the meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, July 22, 2015	Registration
Wednesday, July 22, 2015	United States Army Twilight Tattoo
Thursday, July 23, 2015	KWVA Board of Director's
Friday, July 24, 2015	KWVA General Membership Meeting
Friday, July 24, 2015	United States Marine Corps Evening Parade
Saturday, July 25, 2015	Commemorative Ceremony at the Korean Veterans Memorial
Saturday, July 25, 2015	Gala Banquet
Sunday, July 26, 2015	Wreath Presentation at Arlington National Cemetery
Monday, July 27, 2015	Wreath Presentation at the Korean Veterans Memorial
- We still have no word on whether there will be a ground breaking ceremony for The Chosin Few Memorial scheduled to be constructed at Quantico Marine Base, Quantico, VA.

Upcoming Events:

- Wreath Presentation at the Tomb of the Unknowns – ANC - Memorial Day – 11:00AM
- Wreath Presentation at the Korean War Veterans Memorial – Memorial Day – 3:00PM
- Korean Armistice Ceremony - Korean War Veterans Memorial – June 25, 2015 – 9:30AM
- After researching many cities and venues using the following criteria as a guide, I recommend that the following cities be approved to hold the Korean War Veterans Association Annual Convention for the following years:
 - 2016 – Las Vegas, Nevada
 - 2017 – Norfolk, Virginia
 - 2018 – Branson, Missouri
 - 2019 – Orlando, Florida
 - 2020 – Washington, D.C

HONOR FLIGHTS

- Honor Flight Network recognizes American veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them at no cost to see their own memorial. Top priority is given to World War II and terminally ill veterans from all wars and has been expanded to include veterans from Korea and Vietnam.

- I had the privilege to honor three Honor Flights to the Korean War Veterans Memorial this past month. They were from the following cities:
 - Austin, Texas
 - Saint Paul, Minnesota
 - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I had some of the left over pictures from our Board meeting this past Spring that I gave each of the Directors. I handed them out to the Korean War Veterans until my supply was depleted. They seemed to enjoy having a memento from their trip to DC.

When I started to speak about the Korean War Veterans Association and asking them if they are a member, approximately 25% of the veterans were members. The other 75% of the Korean War Veterans gave me the following responses:

- *“I am too old to join any organization”*
- *“I never heard of the Korean War Veterans Association”*
- *“What benefit do I receive if I join?”*
- *“Is it free to join?”*
- *“How much is it to join?”*

Mr. Ron Rothberg, an associate member of the Korean War Veterans Association and volunteer for the National Park Service continues to welcome our Korean War Veterans to their Memorial. I appreciate his willingness to serve. Since Ron is a volunteer with the National Park Service, he is prohibited to recruit new members on the property belonging to the Federal Government.

We need help! If local chapters in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. would volunteer at the Memorial when an Honor Flight is coming to D.C., it would be of great assistance to Ron and our Association. Nothing prohibits our members from speaking with other Korean War Veterans about them joining the Association.

FUND RAISING:

- The 20th anniversary coin for the Korean War Veterans Association has been minted and is ready for purchase. There are 400 of these limited edition coins minted and will be presented at the Annual Membership meeting for purchase. The cost for each coin is \$20.00. All proceeds will go to the KWVA fund raising campaign. Tom McHugh has done a yeoman’s job to ensure that these coins were produced in a professional manner. These are definitely a keepsake as only 400 were minted. Please spread the word pertaining to the sale of these coins.
- Thomas McHugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee has informed me that ticket sales are doing well. We would like to encourage everyone to support and spread the word about this fund raiser. The price per ticket is \$20.00 for a chance to win one of the following prizes:

- 1st Prize - \$2,500.00
- 2nd Prize - \$1,000.00
- 3rd Prize - \$1,000.00
- 4th Prize - \$1,000.00

- Deadline for ticket sales will be October 15, 2015 with the drawing taking place on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015 in Washington, D.C. Winners will be notified in Greybeards and on the KWVA website www.kva.org

RECRUITMENT:

Director Sonny Edwards continues to do a magnificent job with recruiting. This by far is one of the toughest jobs within the KWVA. I applaud him for his service and dedication.

Sonny will be speaking for the Korean War Veterans Association at the 2015 Chesapeake Beach Stars and Stripes Festival (CBSSF). The theme for this year's festival is the Korean War. Sonny will be speaking at the Festival on Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Veterans' Memorial Park in Chesapeake Beach, MD. I encourage all Korean War Veterans from the surrounding area come to the festival and support Sonny in this special event.

National Memorial Day Float

I received a call from a good friend of mine who is the Executive Director of the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. His name is Tim Holbert. I have spoken with him in the past pertaining to Korean War Veterans participation in the National Memorial Day Parade that is conducted annually in Washington, D.C. each year on Memorial Day. The parade is 1 mile in length and is nationally televised.

Tim has always been trying to get more Korean War Veterans participation into the parade. During the 6th anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration, the Department of Defense Commemoration Committee took the lead in supplying veterans and funds. Since they have dismantled, no one has taken up the reigns.

For this year's parade it is too late to have a float in the parade. Tim did offer me the opportunity of Korean War Veterans riding in jeeps and other Korean War vintage vehicles for this year's parade. I sent out a blitz to all the local chapters and the response back has been minimal.

I would highly recommend that we discuss this event and favorably consider participating in the National Parade next year and follow on years. The publicity alone is worth the price of a float and I am sure we can get Korean War Veterans to participate.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

In response to the American Veterans of Korea Foundation, founded by the Honorable Jung Hoon Kim and Chairman of the organization, the Korean War Veterans Association has formed a scholarship committee with Mr. Lew Ewing as Chair to establish and oversee the annual scholarships given to descendants of Korean War Veterans. The guidelines for this program are presented below:

**AMERICAN VETERANS OF
KOREA FOUNDATION
Honorable Jung Hoon Kim, Chairman
Korean Veterans Descendants Scholarship**

The Korean Veterans Descendants Scholarship program is an outreach of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), a foundation founded by the Honorable Jung Koon Kim, former Chairman of the Republic of Korea National Assembly. The AVKF's mission is to provide support to Korean War Veterans and their families in appreciation for the selfless sacrifices of the United States veterans for Korea's peace and freedom during the Korean War and to honor their legacy.

Scholarship Program

\$2,000 non-renewable scholarship to cover tuition, books and/or supplies. The funds may be used for any term during the next academic school year following receipt of the scholarship.

Qualifications

- The applicant **MUST** be a direct descendant (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Korean Veteran who, if still living, is a Regular Member, currently in good standing, of the Korean War Veterans Association.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must have a Letter of Admission or evidence of continuing enrollment as a full-time student from the applicant's university or college.
- Must submit name, phone number and address of Financial Aid Officer in charge of accepting and assigning scholarship fund awards received from outside sources.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript. High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school name printed on it.
 - For high school students entering college this is cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.
 - For students currently at a freshmen level in college it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.
 - For college students who are sophomores or higher it is your college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 500-600 word personal essay entitled, "***How the war in Korea affected World History***".
- Must submit application and all required materials in single envelope by deadline date.

Deadlines

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via US Postal service and **RECEIVED** by June 1, 2015.

- If the deadline falls on a weekend, the following Monday will be used as the deadline date.
- The Scholarship Selection Committee will not acknowledge receipt of applications. If you want to verify it was received send the application via U. S. Postal Service certified mail.
- Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients

All scholarship recipients will be notified by June 3, 2015. We cannot send out lists of recipients to those who do not receive a scholarship. We only notify recipients. No notification means the student did not receive the scholarship.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized at a banquet at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, VA on July 25, 2015. Transportation to and from the event and hotel accommodations for the recipient will be provided by AVKF.

Required Materials

The following items are required to complete the application process. These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed. All items received separately will not be considered.

- Application – must be on the original form, typed and signed.
- Essay – must be typed (double spaced) consisting of 500-600 words.
- GPA – submit all high school and college transcripts.
- Letter of Admission or evidence of continued enrollment.

Mailing Address

American Veterans of Korea Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
310 Clay Hill Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

In addition to the AVKF scholarship program, the Korean War Veterans Association was provided the following information from The Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) - Eastern Regional Chapter (ERC). Please disseminate to our chapters.



한미장학재단
THE KOREAN AMERICAN
SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
Eastern Regional Chapter

KASF Scholarship for Descendants of American Korean War Veterans

The Korean American Scholarship Foundation (KASF) - Eastern Regional Chapter (ERC) is pleased to announce a new scholarship program in honor and recognition of 1.6 million American Veterans who served in the Korean War during the Korean War era (June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955). These men and women answered the call to fight for a country and people they never knew and never met. More than 54,000 Americans died and 103,000 were wounded.

To express our gratitude to these Veterans for their sacrifices, KASF-ERC will offer their descendants an opportunity to apply for a scholarship. KASF-ERC scholarship program will recognize outstanding students who have demonstrated outstanding talents and potential for success. Awardees will receive a check of \$2,000 scholarships from KASF and be able to attend the KASF-ERC Award Ceremony & Banquet in Washington, D.C. on September 28, 2015.

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements the applicant should be:

1. Direct descendants of a Korean-War Veteran who served in Korea from June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955 (Korean War Era, as designated by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs)
2. Enrolled as a full-time student during the 2015-2016 academic year
3. Attend a school located in the KASF Eastern Region: MD, VA, DC, KY, WV, PA, NC, DE

Timeline

Application Deadline: July 8th, 2015 (Postmarked by)
Announcement of Awardees: August 5, 2015
Award Ceremony: TBD

How to apply

Complete the application form online at <http://www.kasf.org/eastern>
If you have any questions, please contact us at erc.scholarship@kasf.org

Founded in 1969 by a small group of concerned Korean American community leaders in Washington, D.C., KASF began as a local organization with limited focus and funding resources. However, with the dramatic growth of Korean immigrant communities in the U.S. and ever increasing need for financial aids for Korean American students, KASF became a national organization in 1989. While headquartered in Washington D.C., KASF has six regional chapters in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, and Detroit (see states that are covered by each regional chapters). While all regional chapters operate under a single KASF bylaws, each chapter operates independently to raise funds, manage educational/cultural programs, and to award scholarships.

I look forward to seeing you all on July 22, 2015 at the Summer Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

James R. Fisher
Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association