



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

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**MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2015**

Washington, D.C.

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

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

**EVENTS/MEETINGS:**

- Memorial Day is one of my favorite holidays. It is a time when we pause to remember all the brave young men and women who gave up all their tomorrows so that we can enjoy our freedom. This is a special day of remembrance and commemorations. It means a lot more than just hot dogs on the grill, picnics and family reunions.

Washington, D.C is a great place to be on Memorial Day. It is here that we commemorate all who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

President Kinard along with Director LT Whitmire, Ed Brooks, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Warren Wiedhahn and I participated in many remembrance ceremonies throughout the Memorial Day weekend.

- Saturday, May 23, 2015 – Rehearsal for KWVA Color Guard, Arlington National Cemetery
  - Sunday, May 24, 2015 – Rolling Thunder Bike Rally
  - Sunday, May 24, 2015 – President Kinard meets with MG Shin
  - Sunday, May 24, 2015 – President Kinard, COL Wiedhahn and I meet with Mr. Fred Lash on the possibility of establishing a Communications Plan for the KWVA
  - Sunday, May 24, 2015- KWVA Veterans are represented at the National Memorial Day Concert
  - Monday, May 25, 2015 – President Kinard attends the National Memorial Day Service in Arlington National Cemetery. MG Shin and his wife are his guests.
  - Monday, May 25, 2015 – President Kinard presents a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, in honor of all Americans who were lost during the Korean War.
  - May 25, 2015 - Luncheon Meeting with President Kinard, LT Whitmire, COL Wiedhahn, Ed Brooks, Jamie Widhahn, LTC JS Hong, Mr. Don Loudner and I.
  - May 25, 2015- Wreath Presentation Ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial
  - May 26, 2015 – President Kinard and I meet with Ms. Mary Cheney to discuss the TRACPHONE program for veterans
- On Thursday, May 28, 2015 I attended the working session with the Military District of Washington, and the United States Army's Material Command (AMC). The Commanding General of the AMC will be the host General for the Twilight Tattoo on Wednesday, evening, July 22, 2015. This Tattoo will be dedicated to all Korean War Veterans and their families.

We will provide a bus from the Doubletree Hotel to Whipple Field, located on Fort Myer, Arlington, VA. I will need to know if you and your family members will be attending this event and how many of you will be attending. We need to coordinate bus support. It is requested that all KWVA members wear their summer uniform with ribbons and garrison cap to be recognized by the Military District of Washington. Veterans and their wives will be seated in the VIP seating.

We will leave the Doubletree between 1730 – 1800 hrs.

- As of May 31, 2015 the hotel registration for the 2015 Korean War Veterans Association General Membership Meeting stands at 65% of our rooms that have been filled. The final cut off day to secure the \$105 room rate is June 23, 2015. Please remind your Chapters to sign up for the hotel and for the KWVA registration.
- Many still have not registered for the Korean War Veterans Association Annual Meeting. Even if you registered into the hotel, you still need to register for the General Meeting and the tours that are being offered,
- The Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2015 commencing at 8:00AM at a designated room in the Doubletree Hotel. I have submitted the following submissions for approval to the agenda:
  1. Recommended cities for the KWVA Annual Membership Meeting
  2. Ms. Mary Cheney to address the Director on the TRACPHONE (Safelink) Program
  3. National Memorial Day Parade Participation – Washington, D.C.
  4. Proposed KWVA Strategic Plan and Committee for monitoring MIAs and POWs
  5. KWVA Board Meetings – Proposed change to the number of meetings
- **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.
- The commemoration committee for the July 22 – 27, 2015 events taking place in Washington, D.C. will meet on June 9, 2015, at the National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. 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
- It looks as if there will not be a ground breaking ceremony for The Chosin Few Memorial scheduled to be constructed at Quantico Marine Base, Quantico, VA. Once we find out any further information on when the ground breaking will take place, we will pass it along to you.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- President of the Republic of Korea visits Washington, D.C. – June 15, 2015
- Korean Armistice Ceremony - Korean War Veterans Memorial – June 25, 2015 – 9:30AM

## **LEGISLATIVE:**

- I attended the annual Gold Star Wives annual legislative reception at the Rayburn Building on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. I was able to meet with many members of Congress and let them know of the presence we now have in Washington, D.C. Many of them seemed interested and told of grandfathers and uncles who served in the Korean War. I left each of them a card to contact me if they had any questions pertaining to the KWVA.
- Director LT Whitmire and I attended the National Veterans Day Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, in Washington, D.C. This meeting was to discuss plans for this Veterans Day ceremony at the White House and in Arlington National Cemetery on November 11<sup>th</sup> of this 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 work 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 also 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.

## **HONOR FLIGHTS**

- Mr. Ron Rothberg continues to meet honor flights at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It would be nice if we could get volunteers along with Korean War Veterans to meet their fellow brethren at the Memorial. Visiting this Memorial means so much to these Korean War Veterans. Many of them have never seen the Memorial before.

## **FUND RAISING:**

- The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary coin for the Korean War Veterans Association has been minted and is ready for purchase. The cost for each coin is \$20.00. All proceeds will go to the KWVA fund raising campaign. Coins can be purchased at registration upon arriving at the hotel. Since there are only 400 of these limited edition coins minted, they will be sold on a first come first serve basis.
- Thomas McHugh, Director Chairman Fundraiser Committee has requested that Directors spread the word pertaining to the purchase of tickets. We need to lend our support and spread the word about this fundraiser. The price per ticket is \$20.00 for a chance to win one of the following prizes:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$2,500.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$1,000.00  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$1,000.00  
4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.

Sonny Edwards did a fine job of speaking and manning a table 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. Much attention was given to Korean War Veterans. Thank you Sonny for your continued selfless service to the KWVA.

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lew Ewing has informed us that he has received ten (10) applications to date of potential college students who have applied for the Korean Veterans Descendants Scholarship. All scholarships will be presented at the General Membership meeting in Washington, D.C.

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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

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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](mailto: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