



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

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MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE – JULY 2015
Washington, D.C.

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

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

The summer months are passing along very quickly and soon it will be the start of football season. It has been a VERY busy and productive summer for the Korean War Veterans Association.

EVENTS/MEETINGS:

The 2015 Annual Membership meeting in Washington, D.C. was a great success. Much business was accomplished along with a wonderful time of fun and fellowship.

Some of the highlights of the week were:

- Twilight Tattoo at Fort Myer
- Productive Board meeting
- Installation of new Directors
- Tour of the White House
- Panel discussion with the Korean War Descendants Foundation
- Tour of George Washington's home at Mount Vernon
- Installation of a KWVA Communications Director – Mr. Fred “Flash” Lash
- Productive Annual Meeting
- 20th anniversary of the Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Youth Corps Recognition Dinner
- Marine Corps Evening Parade at the Marine Corps Barracks, 8th and I
- Reading of the Fallen of the Korean War
- Gala Banquet – over 400 in attendance
- Installation of the KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator – Mr. Bruce “Rocky” Harder
- Memorial Service
- Wreath Presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and visit to the KW Memorial Bench
- Luther Dappen concert in the Hospitality Room
- Donations to the KWVA in excess of \$10,000.00
- Korean War Youth Corps tops 100 in attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my wife Kathy. Without her support and help in planning and executing the Annual Convention, we would have not had the success we enjoyed. She truly is my better half. (Most likely my better 99%.) God has blessed me with a wonderful lady.

We still have some important meetings and commemorations remaining in 2015.

- Meeting with the LTG (R) Michael Lenington, Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. To establish a liaison between the Korean War Veterans Association and the Department of Defense on all actions pertaining to our MIAs and POWs who are still unaccounted for on the Korean peninsula. The meeting is scheduled to take place sometime in the later part of September 2015.

- Meeting with General Skip Sharp, United States Army Retired and MG Kyoung Soo SHIN, Defense Attaché from the Embassy of Korea to receive an update on the status of whether they still plan on moving forward with establishing a Korean Defense Veterans Association. Date of meeting to be scheduled in September 2015.

- Veterans Day 2015 – The Korean War Veterans Association will participate in commemorative activities supporting Veterans Day in Washington, D.C. The following events will take place:
 - White House Breakfast for Veteran Service Organizations – President Larry Kinard will represent the KWVA

 - Wreath Presentation at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers - President Larry Kinard will represent the KWVA

 - Annual Veterans Day Memorial Service – Amphitheater, Arlington National Cemetery – Director LT Whitmire and KWVA Member Mr. Ed Brooks will participate in the “March of the Colors Processional into the amphitheater at the start of the ceremony. MG Kyoung Soo SHIN and his wife will be guests of President Larry Kinard at this ceremony.

 - Presentation of the Korean War Veterans Association wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. MG Kyoung Soo SHIN and President Larry Kinard will present the wreath at this ceremony.

 - Presentation of the Korean War Veterans Association wreath at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on November 11, 2015 at 3:30PM. MG Kyoung Soo SHIN and President Larry Kinard will present the wreath at this ceremony. LT Whitmire and Mr. Ed Brooks will present the colors. Taps will be played

 - Turn to Buson Remembrance. This will take place immediately after the wreath presentation at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Director LT Whitmire will read the citation and conduct a moment of silence as the all in attendance will face toward Buson.

- Looking ahead – President Kinard has decided that the next Board Meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. during July 25 – 27, 2016. The reasoning is twofold:
 1. The Embassy of Korea has continually asked the Korean War Veterans Association to join with them on July 27th of each year to participate and commemorate with them the Signing of the Armistice. In the past this has been taken care of with Connie and Jack Cloman’s annual “Gathering” of Korean War Veterans in Washington, D.C. since the Colman’s were not able to continue this wonderful tradition, the ceremonies at the Korean War Veterans Memorial have been hit or miss on July 27th.

By scheduling the Board Meeting during this time, the KWVA can participate in the commemorative events that will take place at the Memorial on the 27th. I will work with the Embassy to see if we can work to schedule to have a “mini Banquet” and invite all the surrounding Chapters to these events.

 2. As voted on by the Korean War Veterans Board of Directors and the General Membership, next year’s Annual Meeting will take place in Las Vegas, NV. I will be contacting the KWVA Chapters in the vicinity of Las Vegas to coordinate responsibilities for the Annual meeting. The annual Meeting will take place in October of 2016. The actual dates have yet to be determined. Once we secure a hotel and the program, we will send out a “Save the Date” notice to the General Membership to plan on attending.

3. Fred Lash and I will be meeting with Mr. Tim Holbert from the National Memorial Day Parade on Friday, August 21, 2015 to determine the logistics and costs for the KWVA to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. It was unanimously voted on at the last Board Meeting that the KWVA would like to have some presence in this parade. The parade is nationally televised on a cable television channel. This is the publicity that the KWVA needs.

LEGISLATIVE:

- I met with Mr. Ryan Robinson, the associate Director of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. Ryan's office is located at the White House. Ryan is a good friend of mine and a Marine veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. I met with him for the purpose of letting him know that I was with the KWVA. We need a contact in the White House and Ryan has agreed to do this for the KWVA.
- Director LT Whitmire and I will be meeting with the National Veterans Day Committee on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, in Washington, D.C. This meeting will be to discuss plans for this Veterans Day ceremony at the White House and in Arlington National Cemetery on November 11, 2015. 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. We need to start planning a budget and committee to ensure that the KWVA is well represented and conducts these events in a professional manner.

There may be some light in resolving the 90% ruling from the IRS. We are working with a lawyer who is a Korean War Veteran who lives in Florida. He is looking into this matter for us. There has been an update of Publication 3386, Tax Guide for Veterans' Organizations dated March 25, 2015. We are researching this update to see if it alleviates the requirements for the 90% ruling. More to follow.

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. Ron supplied a display in the hospitality room at the annual meeting which was very informative to our members. I encourage all to support Ron in his efforts in welcoming our Korean War veterans and their families to their Memorial.

FUND RAISING:

- The 20th anniversary coin for the Korean War Veterans Association met with great success. Near all of these limited edition coins were sold at the Annual Meeting. There is still a limited amount of these coins available and can be purchased by contacting the KWVA Membership office. The cost for each coin is \$20.00. All proceeds will go to the KWVA fund raising campaign.
- 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:

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. MG Kyoung Soo SHIN will pick the winning tickets. Winners will be notified in Greybeards and on the KWVA website www.kva.org

RECRUITMENT:

- The Map Poster of the Korean War is available!! Thanks to the government of the Republic of Korea for printing 500 copies of this map. It will be used to support our “Tell America Program”. Those KWVA veterans who go into the schools have used a copy of this map in their presentations. We now have additional maps to support this program. If you desire to have a map for use in your presentations to schools, civic organizations, church groups, etc..., you can request them from:

Director Roy Aldridge
Chairman, Tell America Program
6544 Grand Ridge, Dr
El Paso, TX 79912
Phone: 915-581-4725
email: Royaldridge@sbcglobal.net

- Mr. Sonny Edwards is to be commended for all his excellent work with recruiting. President Kinard has asked Sonny to assist Director Fitts as he takes on this very important responsibility. Sonny has agreed and we are indebted to his selfless service to the KWVA. We now have a VERY STRONG team leading the recruitment program for the KWVA. Please remember, IT TAKES ALL OF US TO RECRUIT NEW AND PAST MEMBERSHIP BACK INTO THE ORGANIZATION. As the good book states, “*Without a vision, the people perish*”.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The KWVA Committee did a masterful job of selecting this year’s recipients to receive the American Korean Veterans Foundation’s ten scholarships. Next year we hope to receive additional scholarships from the Foundation. Questions pertaining to the scholarship program can be addressed to Secretary Lew Ewing.

Anne Elizabeth Brown
500 California Avenue, Apt. 7
Santa Monica, CA 90403

John F. Townsley
10153 West Shiloh Drive
Boise, ID 83704

Lauren L. Dillard
1935 Eastchester Road, Apt. 8D
Bronx, NY 10461

Holly Grace Molinaro
36 Woodside Circle
Woodbury, CT 06798

Thomas J. Rogan, Jr.
19 Peach Tree Lane
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Aidan Lalley
15 Robert Street
North Haledon, NJ 07508

Francis J. Kowardy
883 Brainard Road
Highland Heights, Ohio 44143

Sarah Koenighain
6915 Brentwood Drive, NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Meredith Grace Waites
1330 S. Oak Run Place
Springfield, MO 65809

Juliana McLeod
23 Saint Stephens Street, Apt. 3
Boston, MA 02115

I look forward to working with all of you.
Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association