



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

jfisher@hrmgroup.net



**MONTHLY REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER 2015**  
Washington, D.C.

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

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

The month of November was a very busy but productive and rewarding month. Director Dick Brown underwent heart surgery to correct a fluctuation with his heart. Our prayers go out to him for a quick recovery.

Please welcome Mr. Richard "Rocky" Hernandez Sr. as our new National Veteran Service Officer for the Korean War Veterans Association. Rocky comes with a wealth of institutional knowledge on taking care of veterans claims for benefits.

1. **National Veterans Day Meeting with the Veterans Administration:** Director L.T. Whitmire and myself attended the last scheduled meeting for the National Veterans Day meeting at the Veterans Administration. It was a good year for the Korean War Veterans Association. Within this committee, our organization has come to the forefront as being one of the predominate and respected members within the Veterans Service Organizations. The KWVA is continually being approached on questions pertaining to how we fundraise, recruit, and plan events. These are only some of the many other topics that VSOs are seeking our expertise on.. The KWVA is getting exposure and recognition. We need to keep on this path and one of the ways to continue this success is to recruit more Korean Defense Veterans into the KWVA.
2. **Veterans Day 2015 in Washington, D.C.** President Kinard was in Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Veterans Day Ceremonies at the White House, Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and the Korean War Veterans Memorial.
  - MG Shin attended the ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and participated in presenting the Korean War Veterans Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers with President Kinard.
  - Following the events at ANC, MG Shin along with President Kinard, Bob Brooks, Jim Fisher and L.T Whitmire attended the Veterans Service Organizations annual Veterans Day Reception which was conducted at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington, VA. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald gave the keynote address to all in attendance. This is the annual reception that the Korean War Veterans Association will be responsible to conduct on Veterans Day 2017.
  - At 3:30PM, President Kinard, COL William Weber USA Retired and Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Mr. Don Loudner, President of the American Indian Veterans Association and MG Shin presented a wreath at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in honor of ALL veterans who served in Korea. Director LT Whitmire and Mr. Ed Brooks presented the colors. There was a crowd of 100 visitors that viewed the ceremony. Included in the audience were 25 South Korean College students that are presently studying in the United States. They presented a very nice tribute of thanks to our Korean War Veterans.

- Turn to Buson Remembrance. Immediately after the wreath presentation at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Director LT Whitmire read the citation and conducted a moment of silence as the all in attendance faced toward Buson. Taps was played in honor of the fallen. Korean television covered the event.
  - Remarks were given by President Kinard, MG Shin and COL(R) Bill Weber.
  - Miss Hannah Kim represented Congressman Charlie Rangel's office.
  - After the events of the day, MG Shin invited President Kinard and his wife, COL William Weber and wife, Warren Wiedhahn and his wife, Mr. Don Loudner, Director LT Whitmire, Mr. Ed Brooks and myself to his residence for a delightful dinner and time of fellowship.
3. **Armistice Commemoration in Washington, D.C. 2016.** In keeping with the Embassy of Korea's request to always have a joint ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on July 27<sup>th</sup> of each year, I informed the Embassy that the KWVA will conduct their Summer Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. over July 27, Armistice Day. The Board along with Chapters 100, 33, 313 and 142 will also be the event on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Embassy has agreed to provide bus support to the outlying Chapters for members to attend. There will most likely be a special luncheon for all Korean War Veterans and dignitaries after the ceremony.
4. **Ambassador For Peace Medal:** The Ambassador for Peace Medal continues to draw many inquiries and requests. The latest request comes from Maryland Chapter #33. This chapter is requesting 30 of its eligible Korean War Veterans be approved and awarded the medal. Once approved by the Republic of Korea government, a ceremony will be planned to present the medals by a representative from the Embassy of Korea in Washington, D.C.

5. **2016 Annual Meeting and Board Meeting:**

As we all know, we will be heading to Las Vegas Nevada for our annual Korean War Veterans Association Membership meeting and Biannual Board Meeting.

- The dates for the meetings will be November 9 – 12, 2016.
- The venue for the meetings will be the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV.
- The website for the venue is: [www.GoldCoastCasino.com](http://www.GoldCoastCasino.com)
- The cost of a room is \$53.00 a night which includes the resort fee and the state tax.
- Parking is free
- Swimming Pool and Jacuzzi is free
- 73 Lane Bowling Alley on site
- Restaurants on site:
  - Cortez Room
  - Ping Pong
  - Noodle Exchange
  - Port O'Call Buffet
  - T.G.I. Fridays
  - Red Zone
  - Java Vegas Coffee
  - Bowling Snack Bar
- Free shuttle bus every 30 minutes to the Las Vegas Strip and back to the hotel
- Shuttle Bus to and from airport \$9.00 each way
- Day trip/tour to the Hoover Dam and Grand Canyon
  - Evening show on the strip. Frank Sinatra Sings (Impersonator)

## **ELECTIONS:**

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2016 for the following National Korean War Veterans Association, Inc. (KWVA) positions:

- President to serve from June 25, 2016-June 25, 2018
- First Vice President to serve from June 25, 2016-June 25, 2018
- Second Vice President to serve from June 25, 2016-June 25, 2018
- Four (4) Directors to serve from June 25, 2016-June 25, 2019

All applications and documents must be received **No later than December 15, 2015**. Any regular members in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, Albert H. McCarthy, in writing.

**REVISIT TO KOREA PROGRAM:** There was one Revisit to Korea tour conducted during the month of November 2015. There were no incidents reported and all who attended had a wonderful time.

All inquiries pertaining to participating on this program should be directed to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Warren Wiedhahn or to Mr. Jamie Wiedhahn. If interested in participating in the Revisit program, please have members contact them directly.

## **HONOR FLIGHTS:**

The last of the Honor Flights for 2015 concluded on November 31, 2015. Due to the cold temperatures experienced in Washington, D.C. during the winter months, the honor flights will resume in April of 2016. If you have time, please consider visiting our Korean War Veterans as they come to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in 2016. Please contact Mr. Ron Rothberg if you are interested at email: [ibyke3@gmail.com](mailto:ibyke3@gmail.com)

## **FUND RAISING:**

The 2015 Winners were drawn on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Veterans Day in Washington DC by Major General Kyoung Soo Shin, Defense Attaché for the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. In attendance were President Larry Kinard, Executive Director Jim Fisher, and Ceremonies Chairman Tim Whitmore.

- |                       |                |                           |                        |                    |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| • <u>First Prize</u>  | <u>\$2500.</u> | <u>Wyeth D. Hartwell</u>  | <u>Nashville, TN</u>   | <u>Chapter 86</u>  |
| • <u>Second Prize</u> | <u>\$1000.</u> | <u>Conrad L. Hlavacek</u> | <u>Minneapolis, MN</u> | <u>Chapter 40</u>  |
| • <u>Third Prize</u>  | <u>\$1000.</u> | <u>Arnold A. Muniz</u>    | <u>San Antonio, TX</u> | <u>Chapter 298</u> |
| • <u>Fourth Prize</u> | <u>\$1000.</u> | <u>Robert Garnett</u>     | <u>Des Moines, IA</u>  | <u>Chapter 323</u> |

Thanks to every member who participated in the drawing. All proceeds will go to defer costs for the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA).

The benefit raised a total of \$46,350.00. Additionally, \$4252 was raised by selling pins, coins, patches and hats by membership office. Total funds raised for calendar year 2015 is \$50,602.00. Participation in this year's raffle was not as high as anticipated. Only 1050 members participated. We need better support. I ask all members, including POW and honorary members to please buy chances when the 2016 raffle is announced. Director McHugh was very pleased with the comments that an "ALL CASH" raffle was an enticement to participate. Unless a member donates another M1 Rifle or other Military Weapon, to use as a prize, we will continue with "ALL CASH" prizes.

"Pins, Coins, Patches, Hats" are available through the KWVA Membership Office on [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org) or call Shelia Fitts at 217-345-4414. Please leave a message if Sheila is not there. She will return your call promptly.

**Embassy News:** My monthly meeting with staff of the Republic of Korea Embassy was conducted on November 17, 2015 with LTC JS Hong, Assistant Defense Attaché, Republic of Korea. Also attending the meeting was Mr. Jang, Jeong Gyo, who works for the Ministry of Patriot and Veterans Affairs and is now in the United States as a visiting Researcher at Georgetown University. His part time job while in the United States is the liaison between the MPVA and the Embassy and liaison between the MPVA and the KWVA. He will be in this position until June of 2016 when he will return to the Republic of Korea.

Areas covered in our monthly meeting were:

- National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. The MPVA is interested in see if they can provide a float in the Washington, DC parade to thank and honor of Korean War Veterans and our Korean War Defense Veterans for saving their country from communism.
- Korean Memorial Day Ceremonies – Saturday, June 25, 2015. The Embassy of Korea will conduct a memorial ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 9:00AM. They are inviting all Korean War Veterans who reside in the surrounding Washington, D.C. area to come to this special event.
- Armistice Day – Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 10:00AM. A wreath presentation and a special speaker will be commemorating the Armistice of the Korean War with a ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Wednesday, July 27, 2016. Korean War Veterans who reside in the surrounding Washington, D.C. area are encouraged to come to this special event.
- Peace Vigil - Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 10:00AM. Miss Hannah Kim from Congressman Rangel's office will conduct her annual Peace Vigil at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on July 27, 2016 at 6:00PM. All Korean War Veterans are encouraged to attend.
- LTC JS Hong being reassigned back to South Korea. This comes as sad news as we are losing a great friend. LTC Hong has received orders to return back to the Marine Headquarters in South Korea. We will miss him tremendously. He will be departing on Monday, December 14, 2016. His replacement has been chosen and will arrive in the United States around December 4, 2015.

### **CONCERT in New York City**

- I received an email and a telephone call from Mr. Sean Cho. He informed me that **Dr. Billy Kim** (no relationship to Representative Kim) will be conducting a concert at 7:30PM, Carnegie Hall in New York City on Friday, June 24, 2016.
- The organization they represent is Far East Broadcasting Company-Korea "Christ to the World by Radio". They were founded by American Missionaries just prior to the war breaking out. They hold American Korean War veterans in high esteem. This group is legit. I have researched them and they are above board. They have conducted numerous concerts in the past in the United States honoring our Korean War Veterans.
- They have invited all Korean War Veterans and their families to attend a free concert in their honor at Carnegie Hall in New York City.
- After speaking with President Kinard, we have asked Mr. Sal Scarlato to be the point person for this event. I consider him our liaison with New York City. Sal will take the lead in getting Korean War Veterans and their wives to attend the concert.

## **Reception for Korean War Veterans in New York City**

On November 12, 2015, the Republic of Korea's Naval Academy docked two ships next to the USS Intrepid Air Craft Carrier Museum. Each year the South Korean Naval Academy sends their cadets on a world tour. They almost always stop in New York City for a visit. This year they conducted a reception on their boats to thank and honor our Korean War veterans. Thanks to Sal Scarlato for rounding up our Korean War veterans to attend the receptions.

## **LEGISLATIVE:**

The saga of the IRS 90% ruling is still with us. Director J.D. Randolph visited with Congressman Sam Johnson from the Third District of Texas. As we all know Congressman Johnson is a highly decorated pilot who served both in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was a POW in Vietnam. J.D. explained the problem we were having and how if we submitted a request to the IRS for a Letter of Change, that it would cost the KWVA \$10,000.00 to process and the funds would not be reimbursed even if the ruling was not in favor of the KWVA. J.D. stated that Congressman Johnson was furious pertaining to this regulation and requested Mr. Jett Thomson who works in Congressman Johnson's office to look into this matter. I have heard at this time nothing back from Mr. Thomson. I have placed three calls to his voice mail. I will continue to follow-up.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Projects during the Month of November 2015 - Submitted by Mr. Fred Lash

- Visited South Korea with KWVA members, including Korean Defense Service veterans (November 4<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>).
- 
- Conducted several interviews of veterans and senior Korean officials during the trip.
- 
- Photographed all the events, activities, and tours in which KWVA members and their families participated.
- 
- Wrote captions for several of the photographs—to go to the KWVA Website and *Graybeards* magazine.
- 
- Drafted an article describing the Korea trip that includes interviews, photos, and commentary.
- 
- Interviewed the current Commanding General on the Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, General Scaparotti and retired General Walter Sharp.
- 
- Drafted an Op-Ed piece for the Washington Post re: the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle at the Chosin Reservoir (Nov/Dec 1950)

**RECRUITMENT:** COL Bill Weber USA Retired met with m on idea that he will be presenting to the Board of Directors at our next meeting. COL Weber would like the KWVA of the USA to consider Korean Americans who served as Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) during the war and with Korean Defense Veterans to authorize to join as members of the Korean War Veterans Association. He stated that there are thousands of these individuals who would like to join the KWVA.

The new recruitment tri-fold brochure and application is approved and is being sent out in the mail. If you would like to receive some of these new applications to hand out, please contact Director Bob Fitts at email: [rsfitts@revealed.net](mailto:rsfitts@revealed.net) or by phone at, 309-793-1292 and let him know how many of these brochures you need. Please provide these to your Chapter Members for distribution.



**BOTH KOREAN WAR AND KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS**

...are eligible to join the Korean War Veterans Association. Due to your Service and sacrifice in defending the Republic of Korea from communist aggression, you have contributed to a free and thriving Democracy that is now looked upon as one of the greatest success stories in history.

Let us never forget the cost of obtaining this freedom for South Korea. Over 34,000 American lives gave the ultimate sacrifice in this war along with over 1,200 servicemen and women who died from 1955 to the present in maintaining the security and freedom of this Republic.

Korean War (1950-1953)  
 Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) 5,720,000  
 Total Serving (In Theater) 1,789,000  
 Battle Deaths 33,739  
 Other Deaths (In Theater) 2,835  
 Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) 17,672  
 Non-mortal Woundings 103,284  
 Living Veterans 2,275,000

We must NEVER forget their sacrifice!

**OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL KOREAN VETERANS**

**U.S. Veterans... Have you seen duty in the Republic of Korea from Sep.1945 to the present?**

**Would you care to meet fellow Veterans that have been there too?**

**Do you have questions about your service?**

**Are you interested in joining a Chapter of the KWVA?**

**Would you be willing to help form a new chapter in your area?**

**JOIN KWVA TODAY**

See attached application.

**KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

Korea War and Korea Service Veterans  
 A Continuity of Service in Defense of Freedom

**Membership Includes**

- Recipients of the Occupation Medal Korea 1945-1950
- Recipients of the Korean Service Medal Korea 1950-1954
- Recipients of the Expeditionary Medal 1966-1974
- Recipients of the Korea Defense Service Medal 1954 to Present
- National Defense Medal
- Korean War Era Veterans 1950-1955

[www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org)

**Do not forget our responsibility.** If we can all get at least **one** new member to join the KWVA by December, we will pick up at least 25 new members. Please try to meet this requirement.

**TELL AMERICA PROGRAM:**

- The Map Poster of the Korean War continues to be requested. The map is available to those participating in the Tell America Program. If you would like maps for your presentations, please contact:

Director Roy Aldridge  
 Chairman, Tell America Program  
 6544 Grand Ridge, Dr  
 El Paso, TX 79912  
 Phone: 915-581-4725  
 email: [Royaldrige@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Royaldrige@sbcglobal.net)

**PRESIDENT KINARD'S TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS**

The following is a after action report of President Kinard's trip to New Orleans, LA – November 14-15, 2015.

- At the invitation of Dr. Jongwoo Han I flew to New Orleans to speak to a Workshop for teachers who were attending the National Council of Social Studies Annual Convention. He had made arrangements with 3 teachers (Dawn Blake, Kathryn Ricker and Samantha Fraser) who had attended his Youth Corps Conference in July to conduct this conference as a way to introduce his Digital Text Book to other Teachers from around the US. During the Workshop each one of them took turns talking about the benefits and the ease of using the Digital Text Book as a tool for getting information about the Korean War across to students. I was there to show KWVA support for what they are doing and give a little history of the War. Due to heavy schedule of workshops and other meetings going on at the same time we had only a few teachers come by our room. Jongwoo had invited Clifton Truman Daniel (President Harry Truman's grandson) who spoke earlier in the day, to come by for a visit. Actually we ended up with a panel consisting of Clifton, me and the 3 teachers. The subject of the panel discussion was how the Digital Text Book can be used in the class room. Jongwoo videotaped the discussion for possible later use.
- Later in the evening all, except Clifton Daniels, went to dinner at the Bourbon House restaurant with the Vice President of NSCC Mr. Terry Cherry. Jongwoo and Dawn Blake had talked with Mr. Cherry earlier about a proposed NSCC endorsement of the use of the Digital Text Book in high school class rooms. This proposal was presented to Mr. Cherry during dinner. Mr. Cherry is very excited about the proposed endorsement and says he will present it to his Board in March and recommend that they endorse it. He is very optimistic that the Board will provide the endorsement.
- Jongwoo has also asked for a letter of endorsement from the Korean War Veteran Association. Personally I think it would be a good thing to do because he is working to carry on the legacy of the Korean Veterans through his Foundation and by what he is doing with his interviews of the veterans, and the Youth Corps and teacher meetings he has held the past 3 years. All this at no cost to us.
- MPVA is the primary funding source for Dr. Han's Legacy Foundation and apparently very happy and pleased with what he is doing and his success with the Descendants and Teachers. Korean War Veteran descendants from other UN countries are also conducting veteran interviews and apparently are making some good headway in Columbia. Jongwoo recently visited Bogota and MPVA had sent a young woman to the New Orleans weekend to observe what was happening with the teachers. She was going from NO to Bogota to visit with some of the people there about their program.
- You raised the question about whether he is incorporated and has insurance. I don't know that but he has a Foundation that has been approved by the IRS. He tells me he works for the MPVA where he gets most of his funding with a little coming from the PanTech CEO. I am comfortable with what he is doing and do not feel it necessary to delve more into where he gets his support. We have no fiduciary connection with him and providing a letter to him that endorses what he is doing with his programs seems like a good thing to me. If NCSS accepts his proposal and provides him the endorsement, I think it would be a good idea for us to do also. I do think we will need to get Board approval before doing so. If necessary, I can get our attorney to give us an opinion on whether it creates any liability for us.

### **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

Secretary Lew Ewing, Chairman of the KWVA Scholarship Committee conducted their first meeting for submissions for the 2016 program. They will be sending out the notice requesting applications for the AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION, Korea Veterans Scholarship Program. If you know of decedents of Korean War veterans who qualify for this scholarship, please have them fill this out

and submit it to the American Veterans of Korea Foundation, Scholarship Selection Committee, and 310 Clay Hill Drive, Winchester, VA 22602

The Korea Veterans Scholarship Program is an outreach of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), a foundation founded by the Honorable Representative Kim, Jung Hoon, member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly. The AVKF's mission is to provide support to American Veterans of Korea 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.

This is a \$2,000 non-renewable scholarship. The funds may be used for any term during the next academic school year following receipt of the scholarship. Although this scholarship is not renewable, the applicants may reapply for a scholarship in subsequent years.

### **Qualifications**

- The applicant **MUST** be a descendant (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Veteran of Korea who, is a Regular Member, currently in good standing, of the Korean War Veterans Association. Descendants of deceased Veterans are eligible to apply with proof of Veterans service.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must have a Letter of Acceptance or evidence of continuing enrollment as a full-time student from the applicant's university or college.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.0 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 their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-500 word personal essay entitled, "*The impact of the Korean War on World History*".

### **Deadlines**

All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via US Postal Service and **RECEIVED** by TBD.

- 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.

### **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 300-500 words.
- GPA – submit all high school and college transcripts.
- Letter of Acceptance or evidence of continued enrollment.
- Proof of service for applicant's deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

### **Mailing Address**

American Veterans of Korea Foundation



Scholarship Selection Committee  
310 Clay Hill Drive  
Winchester, VA 22602

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

*James R. Fisher*

James R. Fisher  
Executive Director  
Korean War Veterans Association

## *Merry Christmas*

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,  
In a one-bedroom house made of plaster and stone.  
I had come down the chimney, with presents to give  
and to see just who in this dwelling did live.  
As I looked all around, a strange sight to see,  
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.  
No stocking on the mantle, just boots filled with sand.  
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.  
Medals and badges, awards of every kind,  
a sobering thought came alive in my mind.  
This house was different, it was dark, it was dreary.  
I had found the home of a soldier, I could see that most clearly.  
The soldier lay sleeping silent, alone.  
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.  
His face was so gentle, room in such disorder,  
Not at all how I pictured a U.S. soldier.  
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?  
Curled up on a poncho, a floor for a bed?  
Then I realized the other families that I saw this night  
Out there lies the soldiers who are willing to fight.  
In the morning around the world, children would play  
Grown-ups would celebrate a bright Christmas day  
But they all enjoyed freedom, each month through the year,  
because of soldiers like the one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder how many lay alone,  
on a cold Christmas Eve, in lands far from home.  
The very thought brought a tear to my eye.  
and I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.  
The soldier awakened, I heard his rough voice,



“Santa, don’t cry, this life is my choice  
I fight for freedom, I don’t ask for more.  
My life is my God, my country, my Corps.”  
The soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep,  
I couldn’t control it, and I continued to weep.  
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still.  
as both of us shivered from the cold night’s chill.  
I didn’t want to leave him on that cold, dark night.  
This guardian of honor, so willing to fight.  
Then the soldier rolled over with a voice soft and pure.  
He whispered, “Carry on Santa, it’s Christmas Day, all secure.”  
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,  
Merry Christmas my friend,  
May God bless you this night.

*Author: Marine Corporal James M. Schmidt*