



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

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

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

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

Another year has come to a close. It was a very productive year for the Korean War Veterans Association. Much was accomplished to further the cause to keep the legacy of the Korean War and those who served in this war alive for future generations to learn from.

Recruitment or new members continues to be the priority as we head into the new year of 2016. **ALL** members must make a determined effort to recruit additional members to our organization.

2016 plans to be a very busy year. The KWVA continues to gain recognition as a major Veteran Service Organization in the United States. We must continue as one voice to keep our mission and cause in the alive.

Let's make 2016 a banner year for the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

1. **AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL:** The Ambassador for Peace Medal continues to gain visibility. I receive weekly calls from Korean War veterans from all over the United States requesting information on how they can obtain the medal. About half of these individuals are not members of the KWVA. This is a good opportunity to try and get them to sign up. If they do, I state I will help them with the processing of their application. Some of these veterans have taken advantage of my offer.

I recently received 25 applications from the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 112, Lake Erie. They have been submitted to the Embassy of Korea for processing.

Many other unit and state veterans' organizations have seen the guidance that we have published in the Greybeards and have taken it upon them to conduct their own ceremonies to present this medal to Korean War Veterans who belong to their organization or live within their state.

2. **LEGISLATIVE:** I had a very productive month working with both Mr. David Eiselsberg and Mr. Jett Thompson whom both work in Representative Sam Johnson's office in Washington, D.C. After much discussion, research and looking at different avenues to amend the IRS 90% ruling pertaining to specifically Veteran Service Organizations with "War" in their title, it was agreed upon by Mr. Eiselsberg and Mr. Thompson that Representative Sam Johnson will re-introduce the previous legislation that was submitted in 1986.

The previous legislation was titled: ***H.R.5903 - To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat recipients of the Korea Defense Service Medal as war veterans for purposes of determining whether contributions to posts and organizations of war veterans are charitable contributions.***

You can view the old legislation at the following site: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.112hr5903>

Both Mr. Jett and Mr. Eiselsberg will draft a new House Resolution once they return from the holiday break. The KWVA will be active in the formulation of this new House Resolution.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that when the new House Resolution is ready to be introduced, **ALL KOREAN WAR VETERANS, DEFENSE VETERANS AND FAMILIES** will need to flood their Congressman's office with requests to support this new House Resolution (HR). If we do not have the support and backing of this House Resolution, it will inevitably not pass. We will keep you informed once the new HR is published.

3. 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 October 9 – 13, 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
- 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)

4. ELECTIONS: Chairman of the Elections Committee, Albert H. McCarthy has informed the President of the Korean War Veterans Association that all applications and documents have been received for the election of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Directors.

The election of the new positions will be conducted 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

The Elections Committee has received the following number of applicants for the open positions:

President – one (1)
1st Vice President – two (2)
2nd Vice President – two (2)
Directors – eight (8)

5. **REVISIT TO KOREA PROGRAM:** All inquiries pertaining to participating on this program should be directed to 1st Vice President Warren Wiedhahn or to Mr. Jamie Wiedhahn. If interested in participating in the Revist program, please have members contact them directly.
6. **HONOR FLIGHTS:**
The last of the Honor Flights for 2015 concluded on December 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
7. **FUND RAISING:** No report
8. **EMBASSY NEWS:** My monthly meeting with staff of the Republic of Korea Embassy was conducted on December 14, 2015. This was LTC JS Hong, Assistant Defense Attaché, Republic of Korea last meeting with me. He has now been reassigned to Marine Headquarters in Seoul Korea. He will be missed. His replacement arrived in the United States the same week. His name is LTC Kangwook Lee. We will have our initial meeting on Tuesday, January 5, 2016.

On December 18, 2015 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, LTC (Ret) Byung Paul) Lee, President of the Korean American Veterans Association of Washington and myself met with President Jim Roberts, Executive Director Tim Holbert and Project Director Wes Smith from the American Veterans Center at their offices located in Arlington, Virginia. The American Veterans Center is responsible for the National Memorial Day Parade which will take place in Washington, D.C. on Monday, May 30, 2016.

The Korean War Veterans Association and the Korean American community are very enthusiastic pertaining to their participation in the parade. The only clog in the wheel at this time is the cost to participate. It will cost approximately \$30,000.00 for two floats in the parade: one for the KWVA and one for the Republic of Korea.

I am presently seeking sponsors to cover the cost of the floats. I have two organizations that are looking into sponsorships. If they fail I will seek out the local offices of Korean Corporations who may wish to be a sponsor.

All Korean War Veterans, Korean Defense Veterans and Korean American War Veterans are allowed to participate in the parade. Anyone with vintage Korean War vehicles are also welcomed to participate.

The parade will be nationally televised on a cable station and for the Armed Forces Network around the world.

Additional areas covered in our monthly meeting were:

- **Korean Memorial Day Ceremonies** – Saturday, June 25, 2015.
The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation in partnership with The Embassy of Korea will conduct a memorial ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at 9:00AM. This year's ceremony will pay tribute to the Korean Augmentation Forces (KATUSA's) who fought with the United States during the Korean War and continue to work side by side with American Forces in the Republic of Korea. KATUSA's from both the United States and the Republic of Korea will be in attendance for 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.

9. **THE KOREAN CULTURAL CENTER – WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Ambassador Ahn, Ho-Young has invited the Korea War Veterans Association to be a part of the Advisory Board for the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, D.C.

Opened in October 2010, the Korean Cultural Center Washington DC continues to introduce the gradual development and future images of Korea. In response to rapid changes within the international arena, we have tried to build a strong partnership with Americans by sharing Korean culture, such as Korean traditional arts, language, food, music and Taekwondo.

The Korean Cultural Center Washington D.C. is located in the capital of the U.S. and is a hub of communication between Koreans and Americans. As a worldwide cultural center, it emphasizes activities and events that contribute to understanding of Korea and Korean culture at a deeper level.

In response to the increasing demand for greater public awareness of Korean culture, as well as the rise of 'Hallyu', the Korean Cultural Center Washington D.C. offers diverse programs that give people an opportunity to first-handedly experience Korea and Korean culture.

He requested that I sit on the Board to represent the KWVA. If there is interest from a member of the KWVA to participate on this Board, please let me know.

10. **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.

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

- Prepared article re: “Revisit Korea” program and distributed it to *Graybeards*, American Legion, VFW, etc.)
- Wrote news release re: KWVA’s new membership requirements and distributed to selected magazines and publications
- Interviewed senior Korean MPVA and U.S. military officials (U.S. Forces Korea) re: “Revisit Korea” program (to be included in a future article)
- Conducted interview and wrote article re: KWVA member George Lampman and the MSG Detachment at U.S. Embassy Seoul in 1949-1950; forwarded it to selected publications (*Graybeards*, *Leatherneck*, and *STATE Magazine*)
- Wrote Letter to the Editor re: 65th anniversary of the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir (December 1950); distributed to selected newspapers and magazines
- Facilitated and attended a meeting with the Executive Director of KWVA and members of the Korean Economic Institute re: future cooperative planning (including the Memorial Day parade)
- Attended holiday meeting of the Northern Virginia KWVA chapter and established contact with new deputy defense attaché’ at the ROK Embassy
- Continued to advocate for the closing of Fairfax County Schools on Veterans’ Day....coordinating on behalf of the KWVA with both the VFW and American Legion
- Preparing to assist the Marine Corps Association in co-hosting (KWVA-MCA) a book signing event at its bookstore in Quantico, VA (tentatively in February 2016)...the book is Adam Makos’ *Devotion*, that centers on close air support of Marines at the Chosin Reservoir in December 1950
- Prepared and forwarded to the Executive Director, a six-month report of communication and outreach activities and projects (July-December 2015) for KWVA’s President and Board of Directors

12. **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards

- The Month of December 71 new members for a total of 770 for the year.
- Active members 2014 14,624. Active members 2015 13,828 which shows a decrease of 796 active members compared to last year. Deceased comrades: 2015 - 804. Deceased comrades: 2014-2015 - 2421.
- ACTIVE DEPARTMENTS: CA, DE, FL, IL, IN, MO, NJ, NY, OH, OR, TX & VA.
- INACTIVE DEPARTMENTS: AL, AZ, & WV.
- DISSOLVED DEPARTMENTS: MD & SC.
- NEW MEMBERS RECRUITED BY DEPARTMENTS LAST 90 DAYS
CA-22 DE-2-FL-46 IL-20 IN-3 MO-2 NJ-2 NY-5 OH-5 OR-1 TX-15 VA-5 = TOTAL 129.
- NEW MEMBERS BY STATES LAST 90 DAYS: AZ-4 CO-3 GA-2 IA-5 MA-7 MD-3 MI-4 MN-4 OK-3 PA-10 SC-6 WA-7 WI-4 & NV-7 = TOTAL 69
- We have 26 Departments & States that have recruited new members the past 90 days. We also have 24 States with no new members reported the past 90 days. I think you will agree organizing new Chapters & Departments is the best way to recruit large numbers. **Bob Fitts informed me the other day that he has recruited 25 new members this year. Way to go Bob!!!!**
- I have stated before that 80-90% of our present members are the age 80-90 years old. It is a known fact that deceased comrades will continue to increase. Only the good Lord has control of this but we have control of Recruiting new members, which is a must.
- Bob Fitts informed me that he has mailed the new brochures to all Chapter and Department Commanders. It is imperative that we use these due to the fact they are more user friendly for Korean Defense Veterans and War Veterans.

- It would be helpful if the Directors, Department Commanders & Chapter Commanders check our web site frequently to see if their area of responsibility needs assistance.

13. **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

14. **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

On Tuesday, December 29, 2015, Secretary Lew Ewing, Chairman of the KWVA Scholarship Committee 1st Vice President Warren Wiedhahn and me met with Mr. Peter Taves from the office of Representative Kim, Jung Hoon, and Member of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea and Chairman of the American Veterans of the Korean Foundation.

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.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the requirements and to select dates on when the recipients should have their applications sent to the KWVA Scholarship Committee. This year we are requesting ten (10) additional scholarships to be awarded to deserving decedents of Korean War Veterans.

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

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 3.5 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 their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-500 word personal essay

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 in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association