MONTHLY REPORTS FOR June 2016

The following from the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association is given for the month of June 2016.

1. **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards - As of June 24, 2016

   New members June 2016  38
   New members TYTD  344
   New members LYTD  389
   Active members LYTD  14122
   Active members TYTD  13335
   Decrease  787
   Deceased Comrades TYTD  693 *Note Monthly average 115

   Departments with 4 plus new members last 60 days
   CA-7 Fl-15 Il-5 NV-6 NY-7 OH-7 OK-4 PA-4 TX-23 VA-4

   Thanks to those that are showing effort in recruiting. Every member in the KWVA is a Recruiter. We need your support. Please make plans for your Chapters & Departments to make recruiting a top priority the next two Months.

   **Mr. Eddie Bell Department of Texas Commander has recruited 20 new members within the last 20 days for Chapter 222. We each should follow his effort in recruiting. This shows it can be done if recruiting is a priority.**

   I thank each of you for your support.

   Thanks to each of you for your Prayers and e-mails for my wife

2. **AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL PRESENTATION:**

   The Embassy has been backlogged with the number of requests for the Ambassador for Peace Medal. This has caused a longer delay in processing the medal for Korean War Veterans. We will stay on top of this issue and hope to have all requests for the medal processed in a timely manner.

3. **COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** The President of the Korean War Veterans Association has designated the Board members as Committee Chairs for their appropriate committee:

   - Judge Advocate, Bill Burns
   - Legislative, Lewis Vaughn
   - Veterans Service Officer, Richard “Rocky” Hernandez, Sr.
   - VAVS Director, J.D. Randolph
• POW/MIA Coordinator, Bruce “Rocky” Harder
• KWVA Liaison to Canadian KVA, Warren Wiedhahn
• KWVA Liaison to South Korea, John Y. Lee
• KWVA Liaison to Korean War Nat’l Museum, Robert Mitchell
• KWVA Liaison to Korean-American Assn., Jongwoo Han
• National Chaplin, Jack Keep
• KWVA Liaison to Washington, D.C., Warren Wiedhahn
• Budget/Finance Committee, Fred Ragusa
• Bylaws Committee, Narce Caliva
• Membership/Recruiting Committee, David Clark, Sonny Edwards
• Awards Committee, Bob Fitts
• Election Committee, Al McCarthy
• Resolutions Committee, Luther Dappen
• Fund Raising, Committee, Tom McHugh, George Bruzgis
• Tell America Committee, Roy Aldridge
• Tell America Materials, Coordinator, A.J. Keyes
• Veterans Day, 2017 Committee, Paul Cunningham
• Event Chairman/Revisit Committee, Warren Wiedhahn
• Ethics and Grievance Committee, Stephen Szekely
• Ceremonies Committee, L.T. Whitmore
• Annual Membership Meeting Committee

5. **LEGISLATIVE:**

- On Tuesday, June 21, 2016, the House passed two veterans bills. H.R. 4590, authorizes VA funding to carry out the construction or improvements to seven VA medical facilities. H.R. 3936 calls on VA to carry out a three-year pilot program which will allow veterans to file a disability claim with the assistance of a Veteran Engagement Team. The KWVA is supportive of both of these proposals. Both bills now move to the Senate for passage, before being signed into law.

- **Senate Holds Hearing on IT System:** On Wednesday, June 22, 2016, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing on VA’s Information Technology (IT) system. VA provided an update on the current state of the system, to include VA/DOD health record interoperability, and VA’s plan to meet its future needs. To read VA’s testimony and to watch the hearing click here [http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/it-hearing-06222016](http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/it-hearing-06222016).

- **Senate Holds Hearing for New Assistant Secretary:** On Tuesday, June 22, 2016 the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held a nomination hearing for Christopher O’Conner. O’Conner is a retired Marine and is currently the acting assistant secretary for VA’s Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. Once confirmed, O’Conner’s title as assistant secretary will be made permanent. To read O’Conner’s written statement and to watch the hearing, click here [http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/pending-nomination-of-christopher-e-oconnor06212016](http://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/pending-nomination-of-christopher-e-oconnor06212016).

- Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015 - Introduced in Senate (08/05/2015)

  Authorizes a Wall of Remembrance, as part of the previously authorized Korean War Veterans Memorial, to include: (1) a list by name of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in theater in the Korean War; (2) the number of members who were wounded, listed as missing in action, or
prisoners of war; and (3) the number of members of the Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army, the Republic of Korea Armed Forces, and the other nations of the United Nations Command who were killed, wounded, missing, or prisoners. Prohibits using any federal funds to construct the Wall.

Former legislation 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.” Mr. David Eiselsberg and Mr. Jett Thompson whom both work in Representative Sam Johnson’s are in charge of making this H.R. happen quickly. They stated to us that after H.R. 1475 is through mark-up, they will be putting a “full court press” on to make the old 5903 legislation up to date.

Congressman Johnson strongly stated that he will be personally pushing this legislation through. He firmly believes that it will be passed.

He also stated that he will need ALL OF OUR HELP in reaching out to his colleagues on the Hill encouraging them to support this Bill.

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). We will keep you informed once the new HR is published.

We will be publishing a one page fact sheet on this legislation with talking points to share amongst all our members and chapters to say when contacting their Congressmen and women.

6. 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 10-14, 2016.
- The venue for the meetings is the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino, 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV.
- The website for the venue is: www.GoldCoastCasino.com
- Room Rates are as follows:
  
  **Deluxe Rooms**
  
  Sunday- Thursday $35.00 plus tax and resort fee = $53.75
  Friday & Saturday $99.00 plus tax and resort fee = $125.43

  **Premium Rooms**
  
  Sunday – Thursday $42.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = $ 61.58
  Friday & Saturday $ 114.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = $ 142.23

- To make reservations on-line go to http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups
- To receive your special KWVA group rate, you will need to enter the assigned Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA

- If you are calling to make reservations, please call 888-402-6278 and identify yourselves as members of a group convention. Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA

SEE ATTACHED FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- **CUT-OFF DATE** September 9, 2016 – It is HIGHLY recommended that you make your reservations now. We are expecting a large contingent of Korean War Veterans and their families to attend this year.

- Parking is free
- Swimming Pool and Jacuzzi is free
- 73 Lane Bowling Alley on site
- Restaurants on site:
  - Cortez Room
  - Ping Pang 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. To Be Determined
- Major General Shinn and his wife have already RSVP’d along with that they will be attending.
- Minister Park (MPVA) and Congressman Kin have received invitations to attend.

7. **REVISIT TO KOREA PROGRAM:** Quotas for the Revisit to Korea Program are now published. Please contact to 1st Vice President Warren Wiedhahn or to Mr. Jamie Wiedhahn if interested when the tours are being conducted.

- **Announcing the 2016 Peace Camp For Youth -21–28 July 2016**

  With the 65th Anniversaries of the Korea War commemorations continuing this year, the Republic of Korea (ROK) government has made the decisions to once again commemorate not only the veterans from all the United Nation Countries and their contributions to saving their country from Communism, but to welcome all the veteran’s grandchildren to Korea on a very special program in July. Called the "Peace Camps for Youth" (PCFY), this program was a huge success in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 & 2015 and we have quotas to continue the program this year.

  **General information & requirements:**
  1. Participant must be a Grandchild or Great-grandchild of a Korean War Veteran in a college program.
  2. Be at least eighteen (18) years old (waivers for 17 year-old high school graduates.)
  3. Grade Point Average of 2.5 required.
  4. Be in "relatively" good health since some physical hiking/walking is involved.
  5. Have a current passport.
  6. There are forty quotas and it will be first come, first served. The group will have a tour escort.
  7. All expenses for the grandchild while in Korea, will be paid for by the ROK government (Double occupancy.) Each participant will receive subsidized air to Korea. (The ROK Government will pay a 50% portion of both the domestic & international roundtrip airfare.)
  8. A service charge of just $250 is required for administrative handling, U.S. tour escort, ticketing, health and disability insurance (required by the ROK government.)
8. **POW/MIA Report:** Submitted by Mr. Rocky Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator.

Monthly Teleconference, DPAA-Family Organizations/VSO/MSO Thursday, June 9, 2016, 2:00 PM

DoD Participants: Mr. Mike Linnington, Director, DPAA Mr. Todd Livick, Director, DPAA Outreach & Communications Mr. Johnie Webb, Dep Dir, DPAA Outreach & Communications Mr. Mike Fowler, DPAA Outreach & Communications.

Participants, VSO-FSO-MSO:
1. American Legion -Larry Provost Asst. Director, National Security
2. Disabled American Veterans - Wayne Stratos POW-MIA Committee
3. Military Order of the Purple Heart - Ernesto Hernandez National Adjutant
4. Special Operations Association, Inc. Special Forces Association - Mike Taylor POW/MIA Committee
5. TAPS - Kathy Moakler Policy and Outreach
6. VFW - Bob Jackson Director, Administration
7. Vietnam Veterans of America - Grant Coates National Sergeant-at-Arms Vice-Chair, POW/MIA Committee
8. Honor Release Return, Inc. - Moe Moyer National Co-Chairman
9. Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing - Sherra Basham Secretary
11. MIA Recovery Network - Kenneth Breaux Researcher
12. WWII Families For The Return Of The Missing - Mary Ann Reitano
13. Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) - Jim Fisher National Executive Director
14. IAVA Elizabeth Welke Dir., Political and Intergovernmental Affairs
15. Jewish War Veterans of the USA Col Herb Rosenbleeth, USA, Ret National Executive Director
16. Korean War Advocate Frank Metersky

Agenda 1.
1. General Update (Director Michael S. Linnington)
2. Operational Update (Mr. Johnie Webb)
3. Q&A
4. Closing Comments

• Director’s Comments:          
   - DPAA Operations Symposium. We’re in the second day of great collaboration and discussion with DPAA leaders here at another facility on JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, and we’re spending time laying out objectives for the Fiscal Year17-18 Operations Plan. Great opportunity for all of DPAA’s senior leadership from different locations to come together, including those from our Detachments in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and Germany. U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA’s (USRJC) Hosted 20th Plenary Session…1st in 11 years! We hosted a welcome reception on Sunday night, and our Russian counterparts did a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Monday morning. We held both full plenary and conflict breakout sessions for World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Cold War led by Presidential appointees from both Governments; General “Doc” Foglesong is the U.S. co-chair and Colonel General Valery Vostrotin is the Russian co-chair. Breakout sessions were led for World War II by Dr. Tim Nenninger, NARA (National Archives); Korean War by Mr. Linnington, DPAA; Vietnam War led by Congressman Tim Walz (retired Command Sergeant Major); and the Cold War breakout was led by Mr. Tim Shea from DIA. Senator Joe Manchin gave us great support and attended as a commissioner as well. The U.S.-side is actively pursuing Senators to fill a recently vacated seat on the Commission. We hope to post the minutes for this plenum, as well as past plenums, to our website once cleared by Gen Foglesong. The Russian-side has tentatively offered to host the 21st plenum in Fall 2017.   

Family/VSO/Veterans
Meeting with NSA Amb Rice on May 12, 2016. Previous Administrations have held similar meetings in advance of POTUS trip to Vietnam (Clinton in 2000, Bush in 2006). Thanks to Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths with energizing key players to host this important meeting. The discussion was focused primarily on Veterans and Veterans Service Organizations and the President’s planned visit to Hiroshima. Some attendees included: - Carlos Fuentes, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) - Rhonda Powell, American Legion - Gary Augustine, Disable American Veterans (DAV) - Thomas Berger, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) - Ernesto Hernandez, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MoPH) - Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, National League of Families - Joe Chenelly, American Veterans (AMVETS) - Herb Rosenbleeth, Jewish War Veterans

Boston Family Member Update on May 14, 2016 163 family members representing 75 missing; 14 Vietnam War family members for 8 Missing; 68 Korean War family members with 30 missing; and 81 WWII family members representing 37 missing. We had 79 First Time Attendees.

Continued expansion of operations in the Europe-Mediterranean theater New Director of European Detachment, Mr. Niall Branigan, is now permanently in place in our office in Miesau (MEE-sow), Germany. DPAA continues to create opportunities for no-cost or low-cost partnerships in order to expand our recovery capacity worldwide.

Commemoration Ceremony on June 23, 2016 at 2:30 PM in the Pentagon In honor of those lost supporting what is now the DPAA mission; the focus is on remembering those lost in an Mi-17 helicopter crash in April 2001. Chief of Staff of the Army, General Mark Milley will give remarks.

Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Honorable Christine Wormuth leaving the Department of Defense Secretary Wormuth’s last day in the Pentagon is tomorrow (June 10) after serving the Department for the last seven (7) years. She is being honored with the “Service to the Flag Award” in a ceremony at the Women in Military Service Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 11:30 AM. She has been a staunch supporter of the past conflict accounting mission these last two years and we thank her for her service.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Friday, September 16, 2016. Please place your poster orders at www.dpaa.mil

Operations Update: Johnie Webb
Current Operations: There are currently 144 personnel deployed to six countries conducting investigation and recovery operations.

World War II: One History Flight recovery team is concluding an excavation in Germany. Two History Flight Teams are conducting file operations at three recovery sites in Tarawa.
Vietnam War: Three recovery teams, one Vietnamese recovery team, and one investigative team continued operations in Vietnam. Currently, three recovery teams are conducting recovery operations in Laos.

Korean War: An investigation team continues its work in South Korea with our South Korean partner (ie. “MAKRI”). Future Operations: We will be conducting operations in ten countries in the next 60 days.

World War II: In June, one investigation team will deploy to Italy and one recovery team will deploy to Papua New Guinea. In July, one recovery team will deploy to France; two recovery teams will deploy to Germany; one recovery team will deploy to Ukraine, one investigation team will deploy to the Philippines, and, one investigation team will deploy to the Solomon Islands. One recovery team will excavate a crash site in Oahu, Hawaii.

Vietnam War: In June, eight teams will deploy to Vietnam to conduct investigation and recovery operations.

Q&A
Closing Comments
National League of POW/MIA Families meeting at the end of this month, 22-25 June.
Korea/Cold War meeting at the beginning of August.
Next Conference Call is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, 7 July at 2:00 PM.

**MIA Update:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Office announced burial updates and the identification of remains of **Army Cpl. George P. Grifford**, 18, of Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich., will be buried June 27 in Arlington National Cemetery. On Nov. 30, 1950, Grifford was a member of the 37th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was attacked by enemy forces near Kunu-ri, North Korea. It would be later learned he died as a prisoner of war on Feb. 6, 1951. Read more at [http://www.dpaa.mil/NewsStories/NewsReleases/tabid/10159/Article/803444/soldier-missing-from-korean-war-accounted-for-grifford.aspx](http://www.dpaa.mil/NewsStories/NewsReleases/tabid/10159/Article/803444/soldier-missing-from-korean-war-accounted-for-grifford.aspx).

**Michael Linnington, Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency will become the CEO of the Wounded Warrior Project.**

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) - The head of the military agency that searches for and identifies the remains of missing servicemen is resigning after just one year to take over a troubled nonprofit that cares for wounded troops.

Michael Linnington became the director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency last summer. He plans to leave next month to become the CEO of the Wounded Warrior Project.

Linnington became the leader of the POW/MIA mission at the Pentagon after Congress and groups that advocate for families of the missing had criticized the way the military was handling identifications.

Since Linnington took the helm, the agency's laboratories have nearly doubled the identifications of missing servicemen.

At the Wounded Warrior Project, Linnington will lead a nonprofit that has been criticized for lavish spending. The New York Times and CBS News in January reported employees, veterans and charity watchdogs were complaining the organization was profiteering off veterans.

Linnington said in a phone interview he hadn't planned on leaving the POW/MIA agency so soon and wasn't looking for a new job. But he said the opportunity at the Wounded Warrior Project was for "incredibly noble work."

"I'm very proud of the things we've done at the DPAA over the past year but I was approached by a group that needed some leadership in caring for our wounded warriors. I'm a 35-year soldier. I brought soldiers to combat and welcomed many of them home that were grievously wounded," Linnington said in a phone interview.

Reports on the Wounded Warrior Project by CBS News and The Times described extravagant parties and last-minute, business-class air travel at the nonprofit. One former employee compared it to "what the military calls fraud, waste and abuse."

The Jacksonville, Florida-based organization's directors fired two executives after hiring outside legal counsel and forensic accounting consultants to conduct an independent review of its records and interview current and former employees.

The military's efforts to find and identify missing remains have suffered from many problems over many decades.
In 2014, the AP disclosed an internal Pentagon report that said a DPAA predecessor organization - the Hawaii-based Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command - was wasteful, acutely dysfunctional and often mismanaged.

Shortly afterward, the Government Accountability Office issued a report saying the MIA accounting effort was hampered by weak leadership, infighting and a fragmented approach to planning.

The Pentagon later streamlined the change of command and made other organizational changes.

Linington, who retired from the Army as a lieutenant general before assuming a civilian role at the Pentagon, said consolidating the Defense Department agencies responsible for identifying missing servicemen has helped.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, chairwoman of the board at the National League of POW/MIA Families, said she was surprised by Linnington's announcement. She said he had told her group last year he was at the agency for the long haul, meaning the next 10 years.

"I can only say it was a total shock. Just stunning and unexpected," Mills-Griffiths said.

Linington said his successor should have compassion, integrity, teamwork, respect and innovation.

"If we continue to focus on our families and providing families the fullest possible accounting of their loved ones, based on those values, I think we'll be fine," he said.

7. **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: Royalridge@sbcglobal.net
8. **FUND RAISING:** Director Tom McHugh has published the 2016 flyer for the Korean War Veterans Associations annual fund raiser. The goal for 2016 is to raise $70,000.00 to be applied toward administrative costs to run our organization. PLEASE help and sell the fund raising tickets below.
9. **HONOR FLIGHTS:** The Honor Flight schedule for the month of July is listed below. If you can make it out to the KWV Memorial to greet them, I know they would be very appreciative.

I had the privilege to meet with and thank Honor Flight Korean War Veterans from Las Vegas, Nevada and Orlando, Florida on Saturday, June 25, 2016 at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. A total of 52 Korean War Veterans visited their Memorial. For many of them it was a very emotional day.

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10. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Submitted by the Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Fred Lash.

- Prepared and released a news release that detailed the various events that were part of the tribute to KATUSA’s on Saturday, June 25
- Sent out that approved news release to more than 30 reporters and editors; followed up with them one week prior to the events
- Took photographs at the KATUSA ceremony on June 25 and distributed them to several news and veterans organizations
- Arranged interviews with Tom Stevens and Bill Weber at the KATUSA ceremony for reporters from both the Yonhap News Agency and The Korea Daily
- Assisted Jenny Lee, a master’s degree student at the Medill School of Journalism, who is doing research on the Korean War….arranged an interview with Bill Weber
- Assisted a screenwriter named Rachel Lambert in gathering information and obtaining interviews in connection with a film project that focuses on a POW during the Korean War
- Continued with interviews of KWVA member George Lampman for a forthcoming article in *The Graybeards* that regards his service in Korea, Japan, and China prior to, and during, the Korean War
- Distributed photographs taken at the Memorial Day events to several news organizations requesting same
- Continuing to coordinate a Marine Corps Association-sponsored book signing event for author Adam Makos and his novel, *Devotion*…to be co-sponsored by the KWVA
11. **EMBASSY NEWS:**

- Ambassador Ahn is planning a possible visit to Ann Arbor, Michigan in the near future and requested that I identify the nearest Korean War Veterans Association Chapter near Ann Arbor and some names of Korean War Veterans who live in this area. No further information given at this time as to whether there will be a trip and what the trip is for. I will provide the information as it becomes available.
- The Defense Attaché for the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, MG Kyoung Shin will be leaving his position toward the end of 2016. He has been a true friend to the Korean War Veterans across the United States. He will be truly missed.

**Save the Date!!**

*Farewell Dinner Honoring*

*MG Kyoung Soo & Mia SHIN*

*Thursday, November 10, 2016*

*6:30 - 9:00PM*

*More Details to follow*

12. **Korean Memorial Day Ceremonies** – On Saturday, June 25, 2015. The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation in partnership with The Embassy of Korea conducted a memorial ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial to 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 were in attendance for this special event. Over 2,000 visitors were able to view this event when they visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial.
Korean Embassy and the Korean War Veterans Association

Commemorate the 66th Anniversary of the Start of the Korean War: On Friday, June 24, 2016 over three hundred people visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial to remember and honor all who served in the Korean War. The Embassy of the Republic of Korea hosted an hour long event that featured many dignitaries and Korean War Veterans from Maryland and Virginia. The Ambassador from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea was the keynote speaker. The Ambassador also invited all Korean War Veterans to his residence following the ceremony for a luncheon.

POSTPONED: KWVMF Fund Raising Galas: The Gala Benefit scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 2016 at the Sheila Hotel in Seoul, Korean and on Tuesday, October 4, 2016, Building Museum, Washington, D.C. have been postponed to a later date. The Gala is to raise money for the maintenance program at the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

CHANGE OF DATE: San Francisco Korean War Memorial Dedication: Opening Ceremony Monday, August 1, 2016, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, Lincoln Boulevard at Sheridan Avenue, The Presidio, San Francisco. Here is the update posting on the KWMF website: http://www.kwmf.org/memorial-opening-ceremony/. The change was necessitated by conflicting events in San Francisco, as well as by schedule conflicts for several of the guest speakers. 1st Vice President Warren Wiedhahn will represent and give remarks on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association, USA. All veterans and their families, as well as friends, supporters and members of the media are invited to participate. For additional information, or to request an invitation, contact Eleanor Zapanta at, 415-921-1933 or Email: eleanor@kwmf.org.

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.

Congressional Reception: Wednesday, July 27, 2016 in the evening there will be a reception in Congress. More details to follow!

Peace Vigil - 9th annual Remember727’s Armistice commemoration and Peace Vigil will take place on Saturday, July 23, 2016 from 6-8pm in front the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. It will of course include a wreath laying at the KWV Memorial. COL (R) William Weber will be one of the keynote speakers. Miss Hannah Kim from Congressman Rangel’s office is the person in charge of this very special event, All Korean War Veterans are encouraged to attend.

CHANGE OF DATE: General Olmstead has informed the Korean War Veterans Association that the Chosin Few Memorial Dedication has been moved to Thursday, September 15, 2016 at Quantico Marine Corps Base (Museum).

13. VETERANS DAY 2017: - submitted by L T WHITMORE, KWVA National Director, Chairman, Ceremonies Committee
On 31 May 2016, Jim Fisher and I attended and participated in a Veterans Day Planning Meeting of the Polish League of American Veterans. Representatives of the Catholic War Veterans Association (at whose National Headquarters we met) and of Blind American Veterans Association also participated. Mr. Edward Brooks, KWVA, sat in as observer. This was the 3rd meeting of this committee which is charged with planning for the Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery on 11 November 2016 when the PLAV will be the HOST VSO.

Our urgent interest in this planning lies in the necessity for the Korean War Veterans to prepare for Veterans Day, 2017 when we will be Host VSO.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and agenda items included:
• Review of quotes from caterers for Reception. Polish food items were included in the menu and reflected in the quotes of just under $32,000 (this includes all taxes and usage fees). This represents the largest single expense.
• Logistics of setting up the reception area to provide informative information regarding the PLAV, membership applications, National Service Director on Benefits available to veterans. Volunteers to “man” the tables, greeters and personnel to check the names of guests against the issued invitations. (Must meet restrictions and/or rules set by VA) Signage and its display.
• Invitation Cards for the reception.
• Ordering Lapel Pins for reception attendees and possibly members who will be unable to attend.
• Reception location. Women in Military Service Memorial Building. RENTAL FEE: $1,500.00 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE).
• Determination of Need for a Specific Checking Account for the 2016 Veterans Day Event with the requirement that 2 signatures be required for all checks. (This item makes clear that a Fund Raising Committee was already in place.)
• Hotels and Transportation needs for Departments. Consideration of “Specials” such as tours and monument visitations. Several area lodging sites had been visited and were discussed.
• Seating for the Ceremonies at Arlington Amphitheater and Bus information. Early arrival for PLAV is encouraged because of expected crowds. Amphitheater seating is limited and opens to the public on a “first come-first seated” basis after 8:00AM.

Agenda items for the 5/31/16 Meeting included:
• Reminder that the (KWVA) President’s Planned Remarks must be reviewed well in advance of the event.
• White House Breakfast Tickets will be limited to two (2) per VSO.
• Security Badges on Lanyard will be be issued to PLAV attendees and will serve as entry passes to the reception. Invitations will be sent or issued to others.
• Further discussion of Reception Menu which will include Beer and Wine. Updated catering costs are now estimated at $36,974.10.
• Further discussion of Decorations, Signage and Applications. Plans to show short video in the Theater Area.
• Determination that 8 buses would be required to transport attendees from the amphitheater to the Women’s Pavillion.
• Determination that NVD Pins would be issued only to those who are in attendance.
• Fund raising continues with emphasis on donations and issuance of Special Bulletins.

I will copy and send the above referenced PLAV 12 November 2015 minutes (and the 5/31/16 minutes as well when I receive them). I will also send a copy of the Veterans Day National Committee Host Organization Responsibilities (MOAA. 2015) and the Planning Document of Military Order of World Wars (2011).

CONCERT IN NEW YORK CITY HONORS KOREAN WAR VETERANS

• Dr. Billy Kim, Chairman of the Far East Broadcasting Company-Korea "Christ to the World by Radio" conducted a concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Friday, June 24, 2016. President Larry Kinard and his wife and Korean War Veterans from the Tri State area were guests of honor at this special concert to honor them for their service during the Korean War.

• This organization was 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.
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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.

Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

The applicant should be:

1. Direct descendants of an American 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 2016-2017 academic year
3. Attend a school located in the KASF Eastern Region: DC, DE, IN, KY, MD, NC, PA, VA, & WV

Timeline

Applications Available Online: April 1, 2016
Application & Recommendations Deadline: July 8, 2016 (Postmarked by)
Announcement of Awardees: August 2016
Award Ceremony: September 2016

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.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF KOREA VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS

Thought you might like to see what is taking place down under!

This newsletter welcomes the new Consul-General of the Republic of Korea Mr Yoon Sang Soo and his wife Mrs Shin Hee Young; we look forward to working with him and wish them both a happy and productive tour of duty based in Sydney. It covers the change to the date of the NSW Premier’s reception for veterans of the Korean War and families, the ongoing work to locate and identify the remains of the missing-in-action of the Korean War, Australian veterans’ access to the Republic of Korea’s Korean War Medal and the visit of Mr Lee Sang Ho, an assistant deputy Director of the Republic of Korea’s Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs for an MPVA fellowship program in Australia.

I shall be overseas for late June, all July, returning to Australia 2 August. Harry Spicer will be away from last Friday and will be back home on 22 June. We shall respond to emails but this June not be straight away.

NSW State Premier’ Reception for Korean War Veterans

Because the date of the Premier’s Korean reception coincides with the Federal election, it has been decided to reschedule the reception. There is no new date as yet but we expect it will be in late September or October 2016.
Search for and Identification of Australian Missing-in-Action of the Korean War
Our main activist efforts in recent months have been to encourage progress in the search for and identification of the remains of Australians missing-in-action from the Korean War. Below are summaries of the first two Korean War MIA working group meetings. The Korean War Project Officer, Unrecovered War Casualties - Army reports that he is arranging to have these summaries and the Fact Sheet published on the UWC-A website shortly.

In the Summary of Key Outcomes it should be noted that the full nature of discussions is not included for the reason that it is considered that to do this would stifle open and honest working group discussion over time and is not in the common interest of working group members or their constituents.

Consistent with this note ACKVA has taken the position in respect of the four unknowns at the UNMCK, Busan that of these four there is reason to believe that one or two could be Australian.

We believe that the UNMCK Commission, where Australia is represented by the Australian mission in Seoul, has the authority to request the exhumation of remains for testing against dental records and mtDNA data. It can be argued to other members of the UNMCK Commission that the outcome of these tests could be beneficially made available to all countries should they take the initiatives that have been taken by American and Australian MIA family activists. We continue to ask that the Australian mission, Seoul should request this measure be taken by the UNMCK Commission.

The tests would also settle for the peace of mind of Australian and American family members lingering concerns that have persisted about the identification of these remains. This peace of mind is becoming more pressing 65 years after the Korean War and the fading of family connections to those who remain MIA. For the same reasons in the interests of the Australian Korean War MIA family community ACKVA will be pressing to know the outcome of the letter written by the Deputy Chief of Army to the Director of the DPAA raising a number of issues related to Australia’s servicemen who remain missing from the Korean War.

Korean War MIA Meeting

Wednesday 9 December 2015

Summary of Key Outcomes
This is a summary of the key outcomes to facilitate working group members’ ability to communicate with constituents and stakeholders. It does not cover all items discussed, nor does it replace the minutes which are distributed for members purposes. It deliberately does not document the full nature of discussions as it is considered that to do this would stifle open and honest working group discussion over time and is not in the common interest of working group members or their constituents.

Attendance
AHQ - DCOS COL Andrew Hocking
UWC-A - Mr Brian Manns, Mr Bradley Ebert, MAJ David Wilson
RAN - CMDR Geoffrey Fiedler
RAAF - WGCDDR Peter Gibb, SQNLDR Gregory Williams
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Korea Section, Mr John Williams
RAR Association – National Secretary LTCOL Ted Chitham MC OAM (Rtd)
RAAF Association - President AVM Brent Espeland AM (Rtd)
77 Squadron Association – GPCAPT Milton Cottee (Rtd)
Australian Council of Korean Veterans Associations - National President RADM Ian Crawford AO AM (Rtd)
Korean Veterans Association of Australia – ACT Representative Mr Colin Berryman OAM
Family of MIAs - Mr Ian Saunders OAM, Mrs Jill Talty, Ms Julie Dorrington (via teleconference)

Welcome and introductory remarks – COL Andrew Hocking
COL Hocking thanked representatives for attending and outlined his aim for the meeting, which was to provide an environment for open dialogue in a face-to-face environment and to commence the process of improving engagement by the Defence community with key stakeholders representing Australia’s Korean War MIAs.
As Chair of the meeting, COL Hocking indicated that the first two agenda items would enable Defence staff to provide relevant background information to attendees, but that the main focus of the meeting was to provide a forum for people to raise any issues that they wished to raise personally, or on behalf of the organisations that they represented, and for those issues to be discussed in an open and constructive manner.

UWC-A update – Mr Brian Manns
Mr Manns delivered a Powerpoint presentation that outlined the responsibilities and mission of UWC-A, including providing examples of past recoveries of Australian MIAs from different conflicts and parts of the world. This presentation provided context to meeting attendees on the wide range of activities undertaken by UWC-A.

Status of Korean War MIA projects – MAJ David Wilson
MAJ Wilson outlined the priority tasks being undertaken under the Korean War Project within UWC-A:
- Maintaining a family contact database;
- Collecting family trees for MIAs in order to identify suitable family reference sample (FRS) DNA donors;
- Collecting DNA FRS from appropriate family members of MIAs; and
- Liaising with families, counterpart organisations in other nations and other government agencies in relation to Australia’s Korean War MIAs.

General business
COL Hocking then opened the floor to next of kin and representatives of veteran organisations to raise issues for discussion. There was wide-ranging discussion that has been distilled into the following Meeting Outcomes which will set the work agenda for the group for the immediate future.

Meeting Outcomes

*Strategy regarding recovery and identification of Australian MIA*
1. Liaise with American and South Korean authorities to determine whether any remains they currently hold are those of Australian servicemen.
2. Use diplomatic and defence networks to encourage other nations to assist in getting North Korea to cooperate with the international community regarding recovery of remains from their country. For example China, which has good relations with both North Korea and Australia, June be able to facilitate improved cooperation.

*Relating to DPAA/AFDIL*
3. Provide to the US Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) for inclusion in their database the set of FRS collected by UWC-A from the families of Australia’s Korean War MIA. Provide to AFDIL future FRS collected from families at regular intervals as soon as practicable after collection.
4. Link the FRS collected by Mr Ian Saunders and provided to AFDIL (via JPAC) with the FRS provided by UWC-A.

5. Seek advice from AFDIL regarding the process they undertake when checking remains against its database of FRS and the notification protocol that is followed after a positive identification. This information will then be promulgated to families and other relevant stakeholders.

6. Seek advice from DPAA regarding the ongoing program for processing human remains (including both DNA testing and dental records) recovered from the Korean War held at their laboratory and within the “Punchbowl”, noting the possibility that Australian servicemen June be included among those remains.

*Relating to Counterpart Organisations*
7. Consider raising with the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC) the possibility of exhuming the remains of certain unknown soldiers from the UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea in order to obtain DNA samples and dental records for distribution to relevant nations. It is noted that the proposal could require broader contributing nation agreement.

8. Consider the level and degree of formality of engagement with our counterpart organisations in relevant countries ie AFDIL, DPAA, MAKRI, JCCC and whether a Memorandum of Understanding or Statement of Intent would enhance our cooperation with these agencies.

Relating to families / veteran associations

9. Provide a fact sheet / list of frequently asked questions for publication on the UWC-A website and dissemination to families and other interested stakeholders.

10. Notwithstanding that they June have provided a FRS to AFDIL previously via Ian Saunders, encourage relevant family members to provide UWC-A with a further FRS so that the Australian Government can attempt to obtain a full set of mitochondrial and Y-STR FRS for all Australia’s Korean War MIA over which it will retain custody and control.

11. Enhance communication and engagement with the families of Australia’s Korean War MIAs and veteran associations.

12. Raise community knowledge and engagement regarding Australia’s Korean War MIA.

13. Acknowledge that Mr Ian Saunders has a significant role in representing the general interests of the Korean War MIA family community. However, Ms Julie Dorrington and Mrs Jill Talty have also indicated they wish to continue to be involved in Korean War MIA issues and other family members will also be encouraged to become actively engaged.

Closing remarks - COL Andrew Hocking

COL Hocking advised that the outcomes of the meeting would be documented and sent to attendees for consideration and that Defence’s engagement and communication with the Korean War MIA community would continue to improve.

Next meeting: Likely to be March 2016. Attendees agreed to consider the composition, location and frequency of future meetings.

List of Acronyms / Terms

AFDIL - Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (USA)
AHQ - Army Headquarters
DCOS - Deputy Chief of Staff
DPAA - Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency (USA)
FRS – Family Reference Sample (of DNA)
MAKRI - Ministry for national Defence Agency for KIA Recovery and Identification (South Korea)
MIA - Missing in Action
Mitochondrial DNA – maternal DNA, passed from mother to all offspring
JCCC - Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (UK)
JPAC - Joint POW / MIA Accounting Command (now known as DPAA) (USA)
UNCMAC - United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission
UWC-A - Unrecovered War Casualties - Army
Y-STR - paternal DNA, passed from father to sons

Korean War MIA Meeting

Wednesday 13 April 2016

Summary of Key Outcomes
This is a summary of the key outcomes to facilitate working group members’ ability to communicate with constituents and stakeholders. It does not cover all items discussed, nor does it replace the minutes which are distributed for members purposes. It deliberately does not document the full nature of discussions as it is considered that to do this would stifle open and honest working group discussion over time and is not in the common interest of working group members or their constituents.

Attendance
AHQ - DCOS COL Andrew Hocking, Meeting Chair
UWC-A - Mr Brian Manns, Mr Bradley Ebert, MAJ David Wilson
RAAF - SQNLDR Gregory Williams
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Korean Peninsula and Mongolia Section, Mr John Williams
RAR Association – National President Mr Mike von Berg MC OAM
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Korean Veterans Association of Australia – ACT Representative
Mr Colin Berryman OAM
Family of MIAs - Mr Ian Saunders OAM, Mrs Jill Talty, Ms Julie Dorrington

Apologies
RAN – CMDR Geoffrey Fiedler
RAAF – WGCDR Peter Gibb
RAR Association – National Secretary LTCOL Ted Chitham MC OAM (Rtd)

Update on agreed actions from December 2015 meeting
Liaison with American and South Korean authorities
The meeting agreed that stronger bilateral relations with MAKRI were desirable, rather than using the DPAA/MAKRI liaison arrangements to progress Australian interests regarding our Korean War MIAs.

Provision of Australian FRS to AFDIL
The meeting agreed that Australian FRS would be provided to AFDIL as soon as practicable after they agreed to receive these DNA samples, to enable comparison of Australian FRS against the AFDIL database of recovered Korean War remains.

Correspondence from the DCA to the Director DPAA
The Deputy Chief of Army has written to the Director of the DPAA raising a number of issues related to Australia’s servicemen who remain missing from the Korean War, including:

- linking the Australian FRS that we propose to provide with those previously provided to AFDIL by Ian Saunders, for comparison against recovered Korean War remains held by American authorities;
- the notification protocol adopted by DPAA/AFDIL following a positive identification;
- the locations in North Korea from where remains were recovered during joint field activities between 1996 and 2005; and
- the timeline for the ongoing program of processing Korean War remains held by AFDIL/DPAA.

Possible MOU
The meeting agreed to pursue the development of an MOU with DPAA, with the aim of facilitating the recovery and identification of Australia’s missing servicemen from the Korean War.

Fact sheet for MIA families
The Chair acknowledged the contribution from Julie Dorrington and encouraged other stakeholders and family members to submit any further questions that they June have. The document will be published on the UWC-A website shortly.

Proposed additional actions

i. In order to give stakeholders greater confidence in the DNA testing process, UWC-A will:
   • consider a more robust bilateral relationship with MAKRI;
   • seek positive confirmation from DPAA and MAKRI that Australian FRS will be checked against all recovered Korean War remains; and
   • in addition to sharing FRS with DPAA and MAKRI, ask these organisations what more we can do to facilitate recovery, identification and repatriation of each country’s Korean War MIAs.

ii. A lay explanation of the identification/exclusion process using DNA, including diagrams, is to be included in the Family Fact Sheet and published on the UWC-A website.

iii. After the minutes of each Korean War MIA meeting have been finalised a general summary of the meeting is to be sent to attendees to share with other stakeholders and published on the UWC-A website.

Closing remarks

Three of the attendees at the meeting shared anecdotes that reinforced the moral obligation of the nation to use all possible means to pursue the recovery, identification and burial of our Korean War MIAs and the time imperative involved, particularly for the aging family members of the same generation as the MIAs.

Future meetings

It was agreed that meetings would continue to be held approximately quarterly at this stage, with the next meeting to be held around August 2016.

Australian Access to the Republic of Korea’s Korean War Medal

ACKVA continues its mission aim for Australian veterans’ access to the Republic of Korea’s Korean War Medal.

Visit to Australia of Mr Lee Sang Ho, an Assistant Director of the Republic of Korea’s Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. Mr Lee Sang Ho visited Australia during the first half of this year under an MPVA fellowship programme. We facilitated his meeting the ex-patriate Korean veteran community and his participation at an RSL event focused on the multi-cultural communities, including Koreans, and tried to help his access to the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. In the event he decided to visit Melbourne to see the Shrine. He attended a number of commemorative events.

• Prayer List:
  o Mrs. Bettye Kinard – Recovery from heart condition
  o Mrs. Virginia Edwards (Sonny’s wife) – remission
  o COL Bill Weber – recovery from a broken leg
  o LTG William Maloney – Recovery from pneumonia
  o Director George Bruzgis – Continued strength in recovering from lack of circulation in leg.
  o Director Richard Brown – continued healing of his heart condition
  o Director Tine Martin’s wife – recovery from recent heart surgery
  o Dody Green – Upcoming heart surgery

It is an honor to work with each of you and I hope we continue to look forward to continuing our progress in the coming year.
May God Bless our Korean War Veterans, our Korean Defense Veterans and our families and may God continue to Bless the United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

James R. Fisher
National Executive Director
Korean War Veterans Association, USA
Korean War Veterans Association
Annual General Membership Meeting

October 10 – 14, 2016
Gold Coast Casino and Hotel
4000 West Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Room Rate
Deluxe Rooms
Sunday–Thursday $35.00 plus tax and resort fee = $53.75
Friday & Saturday $59.00 plus Tax & Resort fee = $125.43

Premium Rooms
Sunday – Thursday $42.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = $61.58
Friday & Saturday $ 114.00 Plus Tax & Resort Fee = $ 142.23

To make reservations on-line go to http://www.goldcoastcasino.com/groups
To receive your special KWVA group rate, you will need to enter the assigned
Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA

If you are calling to make reservations, please call 888-402-6278 and identify yourselves as members of a group convention.
Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA
CUT-OFF DATE September 9, 2016

Make your reservations NOW as we are expecting a large amount of attendees
Come join the fun in Las Vegas!!!

Please call 888-402-6278 and identify yourselves as members of a group convention.

Group Reservation ID: A6KOREA
CUT-OFF DATE September 9, 2016
Make your reservations NOW as we are expecting a large amount of attendees
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