



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

Washington, D.C.  
jfisher@hrmgroun.net



**MONTHLY REPORTS FOR OCTOBER 2016**

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

1. **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards - As of 10-25-16

New members October 2016	34
New members October 2015	53
New members TYTD	583
New members LYTD	605
Active members LYTD	13,844
Active members TYTD	13,214
Decrease	630
Deceased comrades TYTD 1112 avg/month	111.2

Departments with 4 plus new members past 30 days

CA-7 FL-7 NV-7 OK-4

Each of us will be attending Veterans Day ceremonies next Month and I ask each of you to have apps with you to recruit new members. Thanks for your support.

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. **FREE FLU SHOTS:** From now through March 31, 2017, all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system can receive free flu shots at any Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacy. The joint outreach health initiative is designed to help serve veterans closer to where they reside. Veterans must bring their VA identification cards with them, as well as another photo ID, and complete a short four-question application, which will be used to automatically update their VA Electronic Health Records. No appointments are necessary.

4. **KOREAN WAR VETERANS CONDUCT WREATH PRESENTATIONS:**

This past month, Korean War Veterans and Defense veterans participated in wreath presentations at the Korean War Veterans Memorial with the South Korean Prime Minister and Defense Minister on separate days. Veterans from the greater Washington, D.C. area were greeted by each of these high ranking officials from the Republic of Korea and were invited to have lunch with the delegation at a local Korean restaurant.



5. **LEGISLATIVE:**

- **New COLA Stays Stagnant:** Military retirees, veterans receiving VA compensation, and some 70 million Americans on Social Security will see a 0.3 percent cost-of-living increase at the end of the year. Veterans' benefits are not automatically tied to the Social Security increase, but Congress in July passed legislation to link them in 2017. The slight increase matches the 2016 raise, and marks the third consecutive year COLA has been less than a half percentage point
- 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. **REVISIT TO KOREA PROGRAM:** Quotas for the Revisit to Korea Program are now published. Please contact to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Warren Wiedhahn or to Mr. Jamie Wiedhahn if interested when the tours are being conducted.

Since MPVA approved Korea Defense Veterans (KDV) to participate in the *Revisit Korea* program. This program is receiving many more requests for 2017. The Data Base now contains over 400 total and more come in each week. These figures are both War and Defense veterans.

7. **THE SAE EDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN KOREA**—The Sae Eden Presbyterian Church is planning an event in Houston, Texas in June 2017. I am sure KWVA will be a part of this ceremony.

8. **KOREAN WAR MONUMENT DEDICATION:** Duplin County, North Carolina, and the Duplin County Historical Society, is honoring the men from our county who died in the Korean War. We will unveil and dedicate a granite monument on the Court House grounds on Friday, November 4, 2016, at 2:00 P.M. They are located just off Interstate 40, about half way between Raleigh and Wilmington, North Carolina. The organizers of this special dedication would like to have a large attendance of Korean War veterans and their families to honor these men who died in the “forgotten war.” For further information, please contact Mr. Charles M. Ingram at Email: [charles@ingramandingram.com](mailto:charles@ingramandingram.com) or call 910-296-3676.

**READING OF THE FALLEN:** The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation has been conducting a reading the names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War. In 2015, all of the American Servicemen who died during the war had their names announced in a very dignified and solemn ceremony. This year all of the Korean Augmentation to the United States Army soldiers names who were killed had their names read at the Memorial. On June 25, 2017, The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation will read all of the fallen from the Allied Countries who came to the aid of South Korea will have their names read at the Memorial.

9. **PETS WILL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO ACCOMPANY VISITORS TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**

WASHINGTON — Pets will no longer be allowed to accompany visitors to Arlington National Cemetery starting Wednesday, one of several new policies announced by the Army.

Pets have “impacted the decorum” of funeral services and ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Army said Monday when the service announced their banishment from the cemetery’s 624 acres.

“This policy has been deemed necessary to alleviate these impacts and continue to provide the type of respectful and contemplative space that Arlington National Cemetery strives to be,” a statement from the cemetery reads.

However, some dog owners tout the cemetery as an ideal spot for walking their pets.

Erika Searl of New York City takes her two terriers, Cubby and Ginger, to Arlington National Cemetery several times each year, she said. They visit the grave of a family member, Charles Searl, a B-17 pilot with the 398th Bomb Group who was killed in action during World War II.

Searl writes a blog about her travels with her dogs and has recommended the cemetery to other dog walkers.

“It is a beautiful cemetery, and we think pets should be allowed if they (and their humans) are respectful and follow the cemetery rules by walking on the leash on the paths,” Searl wrote Tuesday in an email.

Other blogs and news outlets have featured Arlington National Cemetery as a pet-friendly attraction. Previous cemetery policy stated well-behaved pets on leashes are allowed in every part of the cemetery besides John F. Kennedy’s grave.

But under the new policy, only service animals and working military dogs will be allowed on cemetery grounds. The ban on pets is part of a set of updates to cemetery policy that all take effect Wednesday, including the closure of the cemetery to bicyclists.

In a statement issued Oct. 17, cemetery officials wrote bicyclists disrupt funeral services, affect other visitors’ experiences and pose safety concerns.

The Arlington County Board and bicycle advocacy organizations in Arlington and nearby Fairfax County argued against the bicycle ban, and about a dozen individuals wrote comments asking officials to reconsider it when they proposed the rule in May.

Cemetery officials have reiterated in announcements about the changes that their primary mission is to “lay to rest those who have served our nation with dignity and honor.”

Full text of the policy changes at Arlington National Cemetery can be found at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov).

10. **BIBLES BANDED FROM VA MEDICAL CLINIC**: By Todd Starnes

A Bible was removed from the waiting room of a Chillicothe Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Athens, Ohio after a veteran complained. “Our government is secular, and must remain secular,” the unidentified veteran wrote. Mikey Weinstein, the founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, fired off a letter to the medical center on behalf of the veteran – alleging that the presence of the Bible inside a government facility is a violation of the U.S. Constitution.

Weinstein, a fussy little man with a strong aversion to our Lord, said the Bible’s placement in the waiting room was “illicit and unconstitutional.”

In other words, “Good Housekeeping” is fine, but the Good Book is not.

The panicked VA staff scoured the entire building to ensure there were no other Bibles lurking about – waiting to spontaneously convert people. They found one.

“The Athens CBOC is unsure how this came into the clinic but it has been removed,” Associate Chief Adam Jackson wrote to Weinstein.

Ron Crews, the executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty, called the VA’s decision to ban the Bible “absolutely ridiculous.”

“There is nothing wrong with a Bible being left in the waiting room along with other reading materials,” Crews told me. “If someone doesn’t want to look at the Bible, they don’t have to look at it. But it can be there for someone who may want to look at it and may find it helpful in a time of crisis.”

That’s a good point. Let’s say you’re in the waiting room dealing with a medical crisis. Would you find greater comfort in the Bible or a back issue of “People”?

Jackson seemed genuinely shocked that a Bible had somehow made its way inside the building.

“We routinely have environment of care rounding teams that look for such material,” he wrote to Weinstein.

A goon squad tasked with cleansing the building of Christianity? Now, that’s mighty creepy, folks.

Now we know why the VA can’t provide adequate medical care to our veterans – they’re too busy rounding up contraband Bibles.

11. **POW/MIA REPORT**: Submitted by Mr. Rocky Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator.

Monthly Teleconference, DPAA-Family Organizations/VSO/MSO Thursday, October 20, 2016, 2:00 PM

The meeting followed the usual format of opening comments by Acting DPAA Director Fern Winbush. She called on Deputy Director Brigadier General Spindler to follow her with the DPAA operational update.

Some additional topics were addressed by Ms Winbush after BG Mark Spindler was finished. The meeting ended with a question and answer session.

Key Takeaways from the teleconference meeting are:

- The new director of DPAA has not been announced yet by the office of the Secretary of Defense. Acting Director Winbush did not speculate on when the announcement would be made, but said she hoped the new director would be selected and announced before our next quarterly teleconference meeting.

- DPAA has spent all the money in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget, which ended on September 30. The new Fiscal Year 2017 budget started on October 1. As is the standard in the current administration, the government is operating on a continuing resolution, which expires on Dec. 9, 2016. DPAA’s current FY 2017 budget is \$112M, but it is underfunded by \$18M. DPAA is campaigning for the 2017 budget shortfall to be fully funded by The Office of the Secretary of Defense. It is still a work in progress as the shortfall has not been addressed by OSD yet, although Winbush believes full funding of DPAA’s 2017 budget it is supported by senior OSD officials. However, that’s only speculation at this point.

- Ms. Winbush announced that the new DPAA Director for Plans & Policy is aboard. He is Mr. John Hamilton. Also, she announced that, Ms. Jennifer Nasarenko (a long-time DPAA/JPAC employee) was selected as the Deputy Director for Plans and policy.
- Ms. Winbush spoke at some length about the strategic partnerships DPAA is forging with outside federal and private agencies and organizations. The idea is to try and get other organizations to partner with DPAA and use their resources to help with the personnel accounting mission.
- BG Spindler spoke fast and covered a lot of information on DPAA operations. The following are some key points about the Korean War personnel accounting effort. In FY2016, DPAA identified 164 unaccounted-for servicemen from past wars. Of those, 69 were from the Korean War and were mostly from the group of remains known as the K208 (unilateral North Korean recoveries turned over to the U.S. between 1990 and 1993) and disinterments of remains from the Punch Bowl cemetery in Hawaii. A small number of KW remains identified were from Joint Field Activities conducted in North Korea between 1996 and 2005. DPAA has scheduled a joint field activity in South Korea in the first quarter of this fiscal year (Oct-Dec 2016). These joint operations in the ROK have had limited success in recovering only a few U.S. Korean War remains over the last several years. Also, BG Spindler announced that DPAA has scheduled a joint field activity in Hunan province in China, but this is a World War II case, not a Korean War case that is being investigated.
- Mr. Rick Downes (Coalition of Korean and Cold War POWs/MIAs) was asked to talk briefly about his recent 2016 trip to North Korea with the Richardson Foundation for Global Engagement (founded by Former Governor of New Mexico-Bill Richardson). Rick outlined what happened on the trip, but could not talk about the discussions they had with North Korean Officials about U.S. Korean War remains because they are under orders from the Richardson Foundation not to provide any details. Therefore, when I asked Downes at the teleconference about what was discussed with the North Koreans he told me he couldn't say anything about the talks. The New York Times article that was previously circulated by DPAA provides just about everything Downes had to say at the teleconference meeting. Allegedly, the Richardson Foundation coordinated the trip to North Korea with White House officials. DPAA deferred to Downes regarding the trip to North Korea and made no comments about the trip. DPAA allowed the group to ask Downes questions, so I asked the mentioned above.
- During the question and answer session, I asked DPAA what progress was being made to get U.S. (DPAA) access to Korean War U.S. aircraft crash sites in Liaoning Province, China. The answer was no progress has been made, but they promised they would continue to press the Chinese on this issue. Seven U.S. servicemen are unaccounted for in Liaoning Province, China, from the Korean War. All of the Servicemen are USAF losses resulting from an RB-29 and four F-86 crashes during the Korean War. The Chinese PLA Archives has investigated these crash sites several times and reported their findings to DPAA in annual reports. In 2014, The PLA Archives turned over partial remains of a possible U.S. airman from one of those crash sites to a DPAA delegation visiting Beijing for talks. Chinese DNA testing indicated the remains were likely Caucasian.

At the end of the meeting, Ms. Anne Mills Griffiths (National League of Families-Southeast Asia), addressed the meeting stating that we should all do what we can to support the full funding of DPAA in FY2017, because our unaccounted for servicemen deserve to be recovered and accounted for just as much as living veterans who deserve to be provided with the benefits they earned while serving on active duty.

- **MIA Families Sought:** The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is seeking families of missing American service members to attend informational update meetings and to collect DNA samples if one is not already on file. Learn more at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>.
- **Army Cpl. Melvin R. Hill** was one of 2,500 U.S. and 700 Republic of Korea soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River, when they were attacked and forced into a fighting withdrawal in late November 1950. By Dec. 6, 1950, approximately 1,500 wounded soldiers were evacuated, and the remaining had been either captured or killed. Hill was reported missing in action as a result of the battles. Interment services are pending. Read more at

- **Army Cpl. Milton T. Bullis**, killed in the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Bullis was a member of Medical Company, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, fighting units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in North Korea, in a delaying action south to Kunu-ri. Within days, the regiment had lost half of its assigned men against attacks from the CPVF. The unit was ordered to withdrawal, and when Bullis could not be accounted for, he was declared missing in action on Dec. 1, 1950. In April and May of 2005, a Joint Recovery Team conducted the 37th Joint Field Activity in Unsan County, South Pyongan Province, North Korea. Interment services are scheduled for Oct. 21 in Holly, Michigan. Welcome home and rest in peace, Cpl. Bullis.
- **Army Pfc. Lavern C. Ullmer**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November 1950, Ullmer was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, fighting units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in North Korea, in a delaying action south from the Ch'ongch'on River to Kunu-ri. Within days, more than half of the regiment was lost due to attacks from the CPFV. The unit was ordered to withdraw, and when Ullmer could not be accounted for, he was declared missing in action on Nov. 30, 1950. Ullmer's name did not appear on any POW list provided by the CPVF or the North Korean People's Army, however two repatriated American prisoners of war reported that Ullmer died at Hofong Camp, part of Pukchin-Tarigol Camp Cluster, on Jan. 21, 1951. Based on this information, a military review board amended Ullmer's status to deceased in 1951. In April and May of 2005, a Joint Recovery Team conducted the 37th Joint Field Activity in Unsan County, South Pyongan Province, North Korea. On April 19, the team visited a site reported by a local witness to contain American remains. DNA analysis, as well as circumstantial and anthropological evidence, were used in identifying Ullmer's remains. Interment services are scheduled for Nov. 11 in Dayton, Ohio.
- **Army Sgt. James E. Martin**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. In late November, 1950, Martin was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was engaged by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. By Dec. 2, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 wounded service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured or killed in enemy territory. Following the withdrawal, fighting continued. Because Martin could not be accounted for by his unit at the end of the battle, he was reported missing in action as of Dec. 3, 1950. Martin's name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists and no repatriated Americans reported Martin as a prisoner of war. The U.S. Army declared him deceased as of Dec. 31, 1953. Although the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service hoped to recover American remains that remained north of the Korean Demilitarized Zone after the war, administrative details between the United Nations Command and North Korea complicated recovery efforts. An agreement was made and in September and October 1954, in what was known as Operation Glory, remains were returned. However, Martin's remains were not included and he was declared non-recoverable. During the 25th Joint Recovery Operation in 2001, recovery teams conducted operations on the eastern bank of the Chosin Reservoir, Changjin County, North Korea, based on information provided by two Korean witnesses. The site was approximately one kilometer from the 31st RCT's defensive perimeter during its withdrawal. During the excavation, the recovery team recovered possible human remains of at least seven individuals.
- **Army Cpl. Donald E. Matney**, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. On July 20, 1950, Matney was a member of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division when his unit attempted to delay enemy from capturing a town near Taejon, South Korea. Enemy infantry and armor units were able to force the division out of the town and block

withdrawal routes. Matney was reported missing in action following the attacks.

In March 1951, unidentified remains were recovered by a local resident in Taejon and designated X-739. They were moved to the United Nations Military Cemetery in Tanggok, South Korea, where identification was attempted. Due to a lack of substantiating evidence, the remains were not able to be identified and were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

In May 2016, the remains were disinterred from the cemetery and sent to the laboratory for identification. Scientists used dental, chest radiograph comparison, and anthropological analysis to identify Matney's remains. Interment services are scheduled for Nov. 19 in Seymour, Missouri.

- **Army Sgt. 1st Class James P. Shunney**, 19, of Woonsocket, R.I., will be buried Oct. 14 in Blackstone, Mass. In early November 1950, Shunney was a member of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, when his unit was forced into a fighting withdrawal from their position near Unsan, North Korea. Shunney was declared missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950.
- **Army Cpl. Joseph Trepasso**, 20, will be buried Nov. 5 in his hometown of Fulton, N.Y. In late November 1950, Trepasso was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, which was deployed on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He would be declared missing in action on Dec. 12, 1950. Read more at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/News-Releases/Article/989134/soldier-missing-from-korean-war-accounted-for-trepasso/>.

DPA/JAC/CILHI Investigative and Recovery Operations  
Korean War losses



- U.S. Investigations and Remains recoveries 1982-2016 (DPRK 1996-2005)
- North Korean Unilateral Remains Returns 1954, 1990-1994, 2007
- Chinese Unilateral Remains Returns 2014

12. **POW/MIA FOREVER STAMP:** A MESSAGE FROM TOM THIEL ~ KWVA CID169 Sec, Ed, Web, DoF Web, AL#41. 19147 Park Place Blvd, Eustis, FL 32736 [352-408-6612](tel:352-408-6612), [kvwathiel@gmail.com](mailto:kvwathiel@gmail.com)

There are more than 83,000 MIAs in all wars starting with WWII to the present. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, More than 7,800 Americans remain unaccounted-for from the Korean War. They were our brothers and sisters in arms, and U.S. Citizens. The Korean War and Korea Defense Service Veterans of Lake County, Chapter 169 Inc., has pledged to do all that it can to return all MIAs so that their families may gain some peace. We must do still more to keep the public aware of these 83,000 Missing in Action Americans. A First Class POW/MIA Forever Stamp would surely help us do this, and we want to convince the U.S. Postal Service to issue such a stamp. But the Post Office objects. Fortunately, one of our Korean War brothers, a POW for some 33 months, the late William "Bill" Allen, author of "My Old Box of Memories," had already done a lot of spadework on this effort. But, sadly, Bill was not able to convince the

Postal Service. So he went to his Congressman, Gus Bilirakis of Florida's 12th District who in 2013 introduced HR2794, the Perpetual POW/MIA Stamp Act. In October 2015, Mr. Bilirakis reintroduced it as H.R. 3558 with the same name.

I obtained this new information from Congressman Ron DeSantis, of FL 11th District. According to Mr. DeSantis, "This legislation would provide for the issuance of a forever stamp depicting the National League of Families POW/MIA flag to honor members of the Armed Forces who are still prisoners, missing, or unaccounted for." Mr. DeSantis went on to say "H.R. 3558 has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform." Mr. DeSantis continued "As a member of this committee, I will diligently review this legislation with my colleagues and keep your thoughts in mind should this, or any similar measure, come to the House floor for a vote." Sadly, our legislation is still buried in the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. We sincerely appreciate all that have contacted their U.S. Representatives on behalf of the original bill. But now you need to do it again—contact your Congress person, our FL representatives on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and leaders of this committee. Please also send this to your Veteran's Group's National Level so that this action might be implemented throughout the U.S., not just in Central Florida. Selected addresses follow:

**Congressman Gus Bilirakis** 2187 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5755; Fax:(202) 225-4085 7132 Little Road New Port Richey, FL 34654 (727) 232-2921; FAX:(727) 232-2923

**Congressman John Mica** 2187 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4035; Fax:(202) 226-0821 100 East Sybelia Avenue, Suite 340 Maitland, FL 32751-4495 407-657-8080; Fax: 407-657-5353

**Congressman Ron DeSantis** 308 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 202-225-2706; Fax: 202-226-6299 1000 City Center Circle Port Orange, FL 32129 386-756-9798; Fax: 386-756-9903  
United States House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform

**Congressman Jason Chaffetz**, Chairman, UT-3 2236 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-7751 51 S University Ave., Suite 318 Provo, UT 84601 Phone: (801) 851-2500

**Congressman Elijah Cummings**, Ranking Mbr, MD-7 2230 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4741; Fax: (202) 225-3178, 1010 Park Avenue Suite 105 Baltimore, MD 21201, (410) 685-9199; Fax: (410) 685-9399

### 13. NEW OMAHA NATIONAL CEMETERY OPENS:

SITE IS 15 MILES SOUTHWEST OF OMAHA

## Omaha National Cemetery Opens

A new VA national cemetery in Nebraska was scheduled to begin accepting burials in late September, according to VA. The Omaha National Cemetery is located about 15 miles southwest of downtown Omaha. It is projected to serve the burial needs of more than 112,000 veterans in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa for the next 100 years.



The new Omaha National Cemetery is expected to accommodate 112,000 burials over 100 years. It is Nebraska's second such cemetery.

The first 60-acre phase of the eventual 236-acre site will accommodate burials for 10 years. The Omaha cemetery is the second VA national cemetery in the state. The first was Fort McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, Neb.

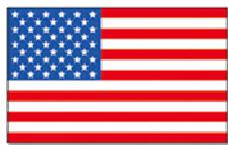
Eligible veterans, their spouses and children can be buried in national cemeteries at no charge. To determine eligibility, access <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

14. **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: [Royaldridge@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Royaldridge@sbcglobal.net)

15. **EMBASSY NEWS:** 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.

*Farewell Dinner for MG & Mrs. Kyoung Soo Shin*



가치갑시다

“같이 갑시다”



*Please join us on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:00 o'clock, in the evening  
as we say goodbye to our dear friends.*

*Location: Fort Myer's Officers Club, 214 Jackson Ave. Ft. Myer, VA 22211*

*Dress: Business Attire or Service Dress*

*Please RSVP by: November 1, 2016 to 703-740-7596 or email: [jfisher1121@verizon.net](mailto:jfisher1121@verizon.net)*

*Dinner Buffet: \$45.00 per person.*

*Please send payment to:*

가치

Attn: Jim Fisher

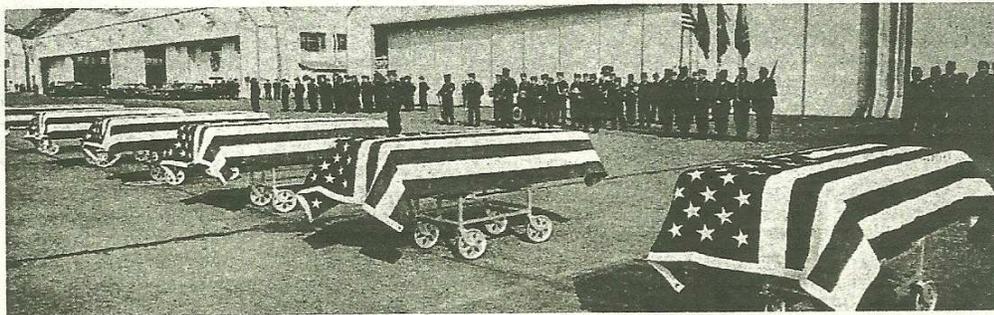
15537 Barrington Place

Montclair, VA 22025



16. **TRICARE REMOVES COST BARRIERS FOR PREVENTIVE AND MENTAL HEALTH:** The Department of Defense (DOD) is improving the number of services and cost requirements for TRICARE's preventive and mental health benefits. These changes, expected to be fully implemented by spring 2017, are being implemented to expand access and reduce financial barriers for beneficiaries. Effective Oct. 3 this year, DOD removed TRICARE limitations on mental health care and made out-of-pocket costs the same as other medical care. These changes improve care such as inpatient mental health and substance abuse admissions, group outpatient mental health visits, outpatient treatment for substance abuse, substance abuse detoxification, treatment of gender dysphoria, family counseling and much more. Beginning January 1, 2017, the expansion of preventive services will go into complete effect. Some of the no-cost services will be expanded to include free genetic counseling for patients who are high-risk for breast cancer, colon cancer screenings/stool DNA testing and laboratory services considered preventive for certain cancers. To learn more about the mental health and substance abuse benefit changes, click here: [http://www.tricare.mil/About/News/Archives/09\\_29\\_16\\_MHSUD](http://www.tricare.mil/About/News/Archives/09_29_16_MHSUD).  
For more information on the preventive health expansion, click here: [http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/10\\_18\\_16\\_PreventiveServices](http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/10_18_16_PreventiveServices).
17. **MYHEALTHEVET UPDATE:** This week, VA launched an updated version of its MyHealthVet website to make it more user and mobile friendly. My HealthVet is designed to help veterans track and manage their VA prescriptions, appointments and health care records. Please visit [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov).

# DMZ FIREFIGHT IGNITES ‘SECOND KOREAN WAR’



Flag-draped coffins of the six GIs killed in the Nov. 2, 1966, DMZ ambush are readied for departure aboard an Air Force cargo plane at Tachikawa Air Base, Japan, for the journey home. STARS AND STRIPES PHOTO

**On Nov. 2, 1966, a seven-man U.S. patrol was nearly wiped out by North Korean commandos, sparking three years of armed clashes. This is the 50th anniversary of that action, yet the peninsula still remains on edge today.**

BY DAVE NEWMAN

**“NORTH KOREANS KILL 6 GIs SOUTH OF DMZ,”** screamed the Nov. 4, 1966, *Pacific Stars & Stripes* headline. Considering the military escalation in Vietnam, the nation was shocked to read such a headline about a hostile action so far to the north.

“Because of duty, six of them died ... from communist gunfire on the almost forgotten front of the 38th parallel in Korea,” proclaimed President Lyndon Johnson 50 years ago.

This was the first and deadliest ground action for GIs of the so-called

“Second Korean War.” And it led to lethal, heightened hostilities along the demilitarized zone that didn’t end for three full years.

### ‘ONE-MAN COUNTERATTACK’

In the pitch dark of Nov. 2, 1966, two four-man squads (one including a South Korean soldier) moved out from Camp Wally to patrol north of the Imjin River. The men belonged to A Co., 1st Bn., 23rd Inf., 2nd Inf. Div.—the famed “Indianhead” Division.

They were typical of the era’s Army, a

mix of volunteers and draftees ranging in age from 17 to 20. Two were barely out of high school. The seven came from Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Texas, Missouri and Washington.

They had the misfortune of patrolling the South Tape—the edge of the southern buffer zone—28 days after the North Korean communist dictator Kim Il Sung had blustered that “the U.S. imperialists should be dealt blows and their forces dispersed to the maximum in Asia...”

Members of the elite North Korean 17th Foot Reconnaissance Brigade were lying in wait near the Liberty Bridge spanning the Imjin River just outside the village of Changpa-ri. It was eight miles southeast of Panmunjom in the 2nd Division’s 20-mile-long sector.

The two American squads were forced to combine because one of their radios malfunctioned. It proved a fateful decision, one that allowed the enemy to concentrate its fire on the unsuspecting

KOREAN DMZ BARBED WIRE PHOTO BY LILIAN MUNCH

squad in the rear area of a guard post. Hit at 3:15 a.m., it was all over in a matter of minutes.

But one man was able to put up a fight. Pvt. Ernest D. Reynolds was that GI. Hailing from Kansas City, Mo., he was drafted in May 1966 and shipped to Korea Oct. 13, his 20th birthday. His mother would later say, "We felt so lucky when he went to Korea instead of Vietnam." He survived Korea only 17 days.

*Newsweek* reported: "Reynolds had been posted some distance away [30 yards at a road junction] from his comrades and might well have saved himself. But instead he chose to launch a one-man counterattack, blazing away at the North Koreans until they cut him down."

Indeed, Reynold's Silver Star citation confirms this report. "For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations," he sacrificed "his own life in the defense of his fellow soldiers... As a rear security man, he had occupied a concealed position and opened fire upon the enemy, and he continued to fire until he himself was killed."

Not content to merely kill the Americans, the communists fired 40 to 50 bullets into their bodies, reported the *New York Times*. They smashed in their heads, bayoneted them and mutilated the corpses.

### SOLE SURVIVOR REVEALS DETAILS

The story of what happened was left to tell by the only survivor: Pvt. David Bibee, a 17-year-old from Ringgold, Va., who had been in-country only three weeks. "We just didn't have a chance," he said. "They seemed to come from behind. The only thing I could make out was that there were at least six of them. They caught us off guard.

"The first thing I knew a hand grenade hit right beside me. I was blown airborne, some 40 feet down the side of the hill we were on. I was shocked and



Wheelchair-bound Pvt. David L. Bibee, the sole American survivor of the ambushed patrol on Nov. 2, 1966, participates in a press conference at the 121st Evacuation Hospital at Ascum City, 15 miles west of Seoul. He was only 17 at the time.

dazed by the blast of the grenade, and then I heard more grenades going off, and automatic weapons were firing all around with the chatter of burp guns [7.62mm machine guns]."

At the time of the incident, Bibee told reporters, "The only reason I'm alive now is because I didn't move when a North Korean yanked my watch off my wrist. ... I played dead. I didn't reckon it lasted more than 15 or 20 minutes."

Shortly after, Bibee was able to wave down a truck. The driver asked where the other members of his patrol were. "Dead! They're all dead! I am the only one left. Get going fast," he told the driver.

After spending about a month in the hospital—he was hit by 48 grenade fragments—Bibee was assigned to a unit in the Seoul area. He never returned to DMZ duty to serve again as an infantryman.

### NEVER FORGOTTEN

Memories of that day so long ago remain not only with Bibee, but also with family members and fellow servicemen. Pvt. Morris L. Fischer, who had enlisted in March 1966 and arrived in Korea that August, was only 17. He left behind broken-hearted parents and three sisters.

Pvt. Leslie L. Hasty had grieving relatives in Palestine, Texas. A niece wrote in 2011: "We were so young when Uncle Buddy was killed—the adults didn't share much with us. Then as we got older, they didn't talk about it."

Yet some relatives derived a measure of satisfaction. In 1986, the family of Ernest Reynolds saw him recognized when visiting Seoul for the dedication of Reynolds Ridge.

In a moving tribute in 2006 to the six young Americans in "Letters to the Lost from Korea," Will Johnson wrote: "I was CQ [officer in charge of unit headquarters] on Nov. 2, 1966, when the initial ambush took place. I can only trust that I performed my duties as was

expected of me. Yet I have been haunted all these years that my communication skills were not up to par and that response time was lost. Such is the burden I carry.

"Never a day goes by that I don't reflect on your memory and the sacrifice you yielded for our freedom. I thank you for my family and the opportunities I have had these past 40 years. But for your personal sacrifice and service to America, it would not have been the same."

John Sylvan, a member of the Recon Platoon of the 23rd's 1st Battalion, seconded the notion. "I personally knew three of the men killed that November day," he said. "Fifty years later, they deserve at least to be remembered." ❖

E-MAIL [magazine@vfw.org](mailto:magazine@vfw.org)  
**DAVE NEWMAN** is a Korean War vet (1952-53) and a member of VFW Post 647 in Danville, Va. He interviewed David Bibee in 1998.



**The Memorial for Korean DMZ/ Defense** at the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan near the 8th Army HQ building in Seoul was dedicated on June 2, 2012. It lists the names of the 92 Americans killed by hostile North Korean actions.

The "Z", as the buffer zone between North and South Korea was known, was patrolled by GIs. The area between the South Tape and north of the Imjin River was the center of hostilities from late 1966 to early December 1969. Perhaps 165,000 men rotated in-country over those years, but few did duty on the DMZ.

KOREAN VETERANS OF AMERICA/CHRIS EBERHART PHOTO

# 'SECOND KOREAN WAR'

## GROUND COMBAT: Nov. 2, 1966–Dec. 3, 1969

Overshadowed by the war in Vietnam, a low-level ground conflict in the narrow confines of the Korean Demilitarized Zone also claimed American lives in combat.

From 1966 to 1969, it simmered, boiling over into ambushes and firefights. But after the opening salvo, those isolated incidents were seldom reported in the mainstream media. Consequently, the public was largely oblivious to the small-scale fighting on the DMZ.

That was just fine with the Johnson Administration. It was determined to keep a tight lid on hostile actions in South Korea. That policy effectively denied recognition to the GIs on the line. This 50th anniversary tribute seeks to fill that void.

.....  
 COMPILED BY RICHARD K. KOLB

E-MAIL [magazine@vfw.org](mailto:magazine@vfw.org)



### ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ID</b> Infantry Division	<b>NK</b> North Korean
<b>IR</b> Infantry Regiment	<b>ROK</b> Republic of Korea
<b>JSA</b> Joint Security Area	<b>UNC</b> United Nations Command
<b>MDL</b> Military Demarcation Line	

### 1966

**Nov 2: Deadliest Single U.S. Ground Action on DMZ.** 6 U.S. KIA. An eight-man patrol is ambushed a half-mile south of the DMZ. Six U.S. soldiers, and one S. Korean, of A Co., 1st Bn., 23rd IR, 2nd ID, are KIA. A Silver Star is awarded posthumously to Pvt. Ernest Reynolds. The wounded GI, Pvt. David Bibee, survives after being hit 48 times by shrapnel.



KOREAN DMZ BARBED WIRE PHOTO BY LILIAN MUNCH

## 1967

- Feb 12:** 1 GI of the 3rd Bn., 23rd IR, 2nd ID, is KIA in an ambush.
- May 22:** 2 soldiers of 1st Plt., A Co., 1st Bn., 23rd IR, 2nd ID, are KIA and 16 WIA when satchel charges shatter their barracks at Camp Walley in the first act of sabotage against GIs since the armistice.
- Jun:** U.S. Army Special Forces are sent into the mountains of south-central Korea to hunt down infiltrators.
- Jul 16:** 3 23rd IR, 2nd ID soldiers are KIA by NKs in an attack.
- Jul 28:** Construction begins on the barrier fence in the U.S. sector of the DMZ. It is completed two months later on Sept. 28.
- Aug 10: First Daylight Ambush.** 3 GIs of the 2nd and 3rd Platoons, B Co., 2nd Bn., 31st IR, 7th ID, are KIA, and 16 WIA in an unprecedented daylight ambush on a truck near Freedom Village.
- Aug 22:** 1 23rd IR, 2nd ID, soldier is KIA, and 1 WIA when their jeep hits a mine and then is fired on by NKs.
- Aug 28:** In an NK attack on C Co., 76th Engineer Bn., 2nd Eng. Grp., near the JSA, 2 GIs are KIA, 14 WIA. The unit is raked with 3,000 rounds of ammo.
- Aug 29:** 3 38th IR, 2nd ID soldiers are KIA and 5 WIA when two vehicles detonate mines.
- Sept 13:** NKs blow up two trains near Seoul in 2nd ID area, destroying seven carloads of Army supplies. No U.S. casualties are sustained.
- Oct:** A rotation system begins alternating all infantry battalions into "the Z."
- Oct 7:** 1 2nd ID soldier drowns after being WIA by NK gunfire, which raked a U.S. patrol boat on the Imjin River.
- Dec 31:** By year-end, 16 Americans have been KIA and 52 WIA.

## 1968

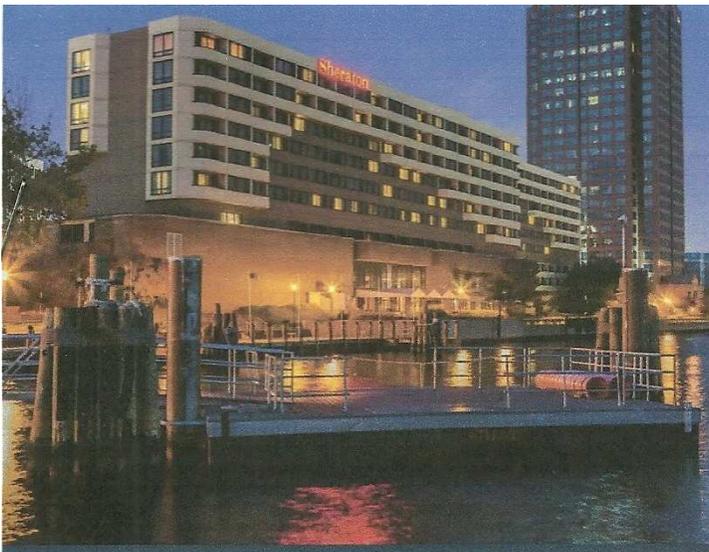
- Jan 19:** U.S. troops conduct search operations for a group of 31 NKs sighted near Pobwonni.
- Jan 24:** 1 soldier of the 1st Bn., 23rd IR, 2nd ID is KIA.
- Jan 26:** 1 soldier of the 2nd Bn., 72nd Armor, 2nd ID, is KIA south of the DMZ.
- Jan 29:** Members of the 2nd ID repel four separate NK agent teams attempting to infiltrate into the South.
- Apr 1: Hostile Fire Pay.** Defense Dept. authorizes for GIs who serve north of the Imjin River. By this time, 24 men have already been KIA and 71 WIA since 1966.
- Apr 14:** NKs ambush a truck and kill 2 Americans of the USA Support Group and wound 2 others south of the JSA.
- Apr 18:** NK guards attack UNC guards in the JSA.
- Apr 21: Largest Battle of Period.** A U.S. patrol from B Co., 2nd Bn., 31st IR, 7th ID, and an NK force of 50-75 men clash in the southern portion of the DMZ, leaving 1 American of the 2nd Platoon dead and 3 WIA. Five NKs die.
- Apr 27:** 2 men of the 3rd Plt., B Co., 2nd Bn., 31st IR, 7th ID, are WIA when their patrol is ambushed by an NK near Panmunjom.

- Jul 20:** 2 U.S. soldiers—one of the 2nd Bn., 38th IR, 2nd ID and the other from the 7th ID—are KIA and 2 WIA in separate firefights.
- Jul 30:** In a pair of clashes with NKs south of the DMZ, 1 GI of C Co., 3rd Bn., 23rd IR, 2nd ID, is KIA and 3 WIA.
- Aug 5:** NKs kill 1 U.S. soldier of the 1st Bn., 38th Inf., 2nd ID; 4 other members are WIA.
- Aug 18:** 2 NCOs of the 32nd IR, 7th ID, are KIA when eight NKs clash with a UNC patrol south of the DMZ.
- Sept 2:** 3 U.S. officers are assaulted in the JSA at Panmunjom by 15-20 NKs.
- Sept 19:** 4 NKs are killed in a firefight in the 2nd ID area.
- Sept 27:** 2 members of the 2nd ID are KIA when their jeep is ambushed south of the MDL.
- Oct 5:** 1 2nd ID soldier is KIA and 2 WIA in an ambush.
- Oct 23:** 1 soldier is KIA, and 5 other Americans of the 2nd Bn., 38th IR, 2nd ID are WIA during a firefight with NKs.
- Dec 13:** 1 GI of A Co., 1st Bn., 23rd IR, 2nd ID, is KIA by an NK booby trap while on patrol in the DMZ. An observation post is named (OP O'Malley) in his memory.
- Dec 26: Combat Infantryman Badge and Combat Medical Badge.** Army Dept. authorizes for select grunts in Korea. But only *after* Jan. 4, 1969, 60 days in the hostile fire zone (between the DMZ and Imjin River) and five firefights. Few will qualify.
- Dec 31:** By year-end, 17 Americans have been KIA and 54 WIA.

## 1969

- Mar 15:** An NK guard post opens fire on a 10-man work party of the 23rd IR, 2nd ID, replacing markers on the MDL. 1 GI is KIA and 2 WIA from a patrol during a 4-hour fire-fight. A U.S. helicopter evacuating the WIA accidentally crashes shortly after take off, killing 3 crew of the 377th Medical Company, a doctor from the 121st Evacuation Hospital and the 2 wounded from the 23rd IR.
- Apr 23:** NKs open up on a UNC guard post in the southern half of the DMZ with recoilless rifle and machine gun fire.
- Jul 21:** 2nd ID troops repulse NKs after a 35-minute fire-fight. No U.S. casualties.
- Jul 30:** 45 NK guards attack 15 UNC personnel in the JSA.
- Aug 17:** U.S. OH-23 helicopter with three members of the 59th Aviation Company aboard is shot down over NK-held territory.
- Aug 17:** 1 GI of the 1st Bn., 31st IR, 7th ID, is KIA in an ambush while working with the 13th Engineers clearing brush from a suspected infiltration route.
- Oct 18: Last Fatal Ground Attack on GIs.** 4 soldiers of C Co., 1st Bn., 32nd IR, 7th ID, are KIA in a daylight ambush after leaving Guard Post Turner. Their light truck, flying a white truce flag, is hit by 100 submachine gun rounds and two grenades.
- Dec 3:** Crewmen of the Aug. 17 shootdown are released 108 days later. All were WIA. This gesture signals the end of the so-called "Second Korean War."

**2017 KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**



## The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel looks forward to welcoming the Korean War Veterans Association!

### **DATES**

October 4th – 8th, 2017 Rates available (3) days pre and post subject to hotel availability

### **BOOKING LINK**

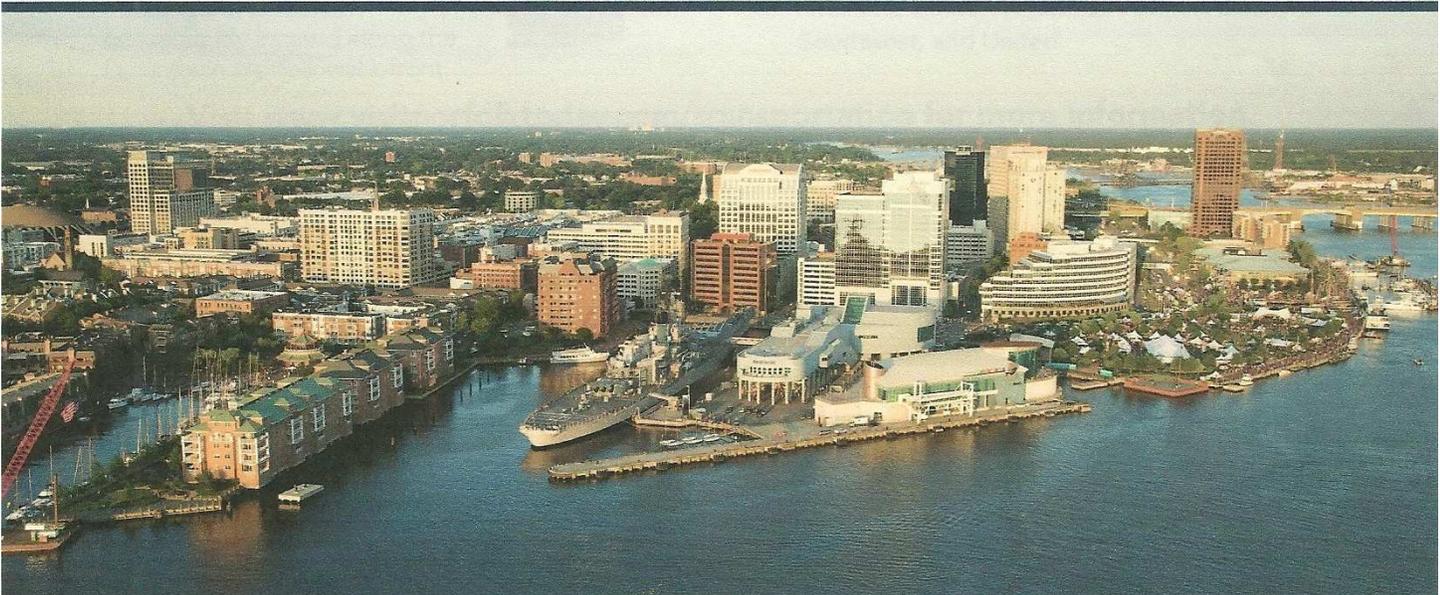
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/KWA2017> or call 1-800-325-3535 and ask for the Korean War Veterans Association

### **RATES**

Standard room at \$104.00 plus tax, Balcony room at \$114.00 plus tax, Club Level king at \$134.00 plus tax. Choice of two queen size beds or one king size bed, harbor view or city view. Club level rooms include access to complimentary continental breakfast and evening hors d'oeuvres.

### **LOCATION**

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel 777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510 [www.sheraton.com/norfolk](http://www.sheraton.com/norfolk) (757) 622-6664.



**HONOR FLIGHTS:** The Honor Flight schedule for the month of November 2016 is listed below. If you can make it out to the KWV Memorial to greet them, I know they would be very appreciative.

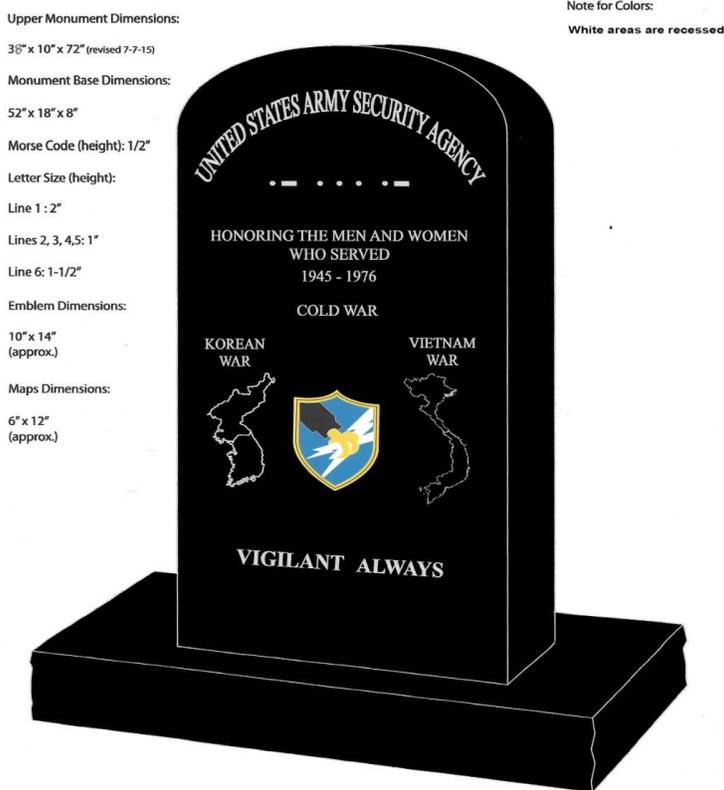
11/1	HF of the Ozarks	75	11/1	11/1	IAD 11/1	<b>SUN</b>	Chris Stark
			11:20 AM	1:30 PM		TBD	417-860-5666
	SGF		1:15 PM	3:00 PM		9:20 AM	<a href="mailto:chris@cjstarklaw.com">chris@cjstarklaw.com</a>
11/1	HF of West Central Florida	80	11/1	11/1	BWI 11/1	<b>Allegiant</b>	Peter Frey
			12:30 PM	2:30 PM		4801	301-318-3312
			2:00 PM	3:30 PM		8:15 AM	<a href="mailto:pff2006@verizon.net">pff2006@verizon.net</a>
11/2	HF Arizona	30	11/2	n/a	BWI 11/1	<b>SWA</b>	Susan Howe
			12:00PM	n/a		TBA	928 713-6772
	Phx Sky Harbor		1:30Pm	n/a		TBA	<a href="mailto:rshowe@cableone.net">rshowe@cableone.net</a>
11/5	TLC/Lone Eagle	56	11/5	11/5	BWI 11/4		Jim McLaughlin
			9:00 AM	10:45 AM		varies	614 558-6220
	A/P varies **		10:30 AM	12:15 PM			<a href="mailto:chairman@honorflight.org">chairman@honorflight.org</a>
11/5	Honor Flight Dayton	95	11/5	11/5	DCA 11/5	<b>AA</b>	Jim Salamon
			3:45 PM	8:45AM		charter	513-310-9706
	DAY		5:00 PM	10:45AM		7:22 AM	<a href="mailto:hfdayton@zoomtown.com">hfdayton@zoomtown.com</a>
11/11	Greater St. Louis HF	23	11/11	11/11	DCA 11/11	<b>SWA</b>	Rolando Lopez
			11:30 AM	1:15 PM		TBD	314-226-5713
	STL		12:45 PM	2:30 PM		TBD	<a href="mailto:info@gslhonorflight.org">info@gslhonorflight.org</a>

19. **PHONE SCAM SEEKS DONATIONS IN NAME OF WOUNDED-VETERANS GROUP:** The Military Order of the Purple Heart — a congressionally chartered service organization for active-duty and combat-wounded veterans — is warning about a telephone scam being conducted in its name. Unknown individuals have been cold-calling people across the United States, often from 315-516-2512, and requesting donations for the upcoming presidential election. The callers say they’re doing so on behalf of MOPH and mention the name of the group’s national commander, Robert Puskar. “The public should be informed that these calls are a hoax,” a MOPH statement said. “MOPH remains an apolitical organization and, as such, ‘shall not contribute to or otherwise support or assist any political party of candidate for public office.’” The statement asks people to contact local authorities if they receive such calls. MOPH was formed in 1932 “for the protection and mutual interest of all combat wounded veterans and active-duty men and women who have received a Purple Heart, the statement said. The group also helps with Veterans Administration claims, homelessness and employment assistance.
20. **DIRECT SCHEDULING FOR VA AUDIOLOGY AND OPTOMETRY APPOINTMENTS:** The VA announced it would eliminate a primary care referral requirement for veterans seeking appointments

with audiologists or optometrists. The Audiology and Optometry Direct Scheduling Initiative is being piloted throughout the country and is expected to be fully operational within all VA Medical Centers by the end of 2016.

21. **RESCHEDULED: KWVMF FUND RAISING GALAS: A** Gala Benefit is scheduled for, October 31, 2016, at the Sheila Hotel, Seoul, Korea to raise money for the maintenance program at the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Wall of Remembrance in Washington, D.C.
22. **CHOSIN FEW MEMORIAL DEDICATION** at Quantico Marine Corps Base (Museum) has been postponed indefinitely due to contractual problems.

23. **NEW MEMORIAL PROPOSED FOR ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY:**





*The Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial  
Foundation and The President of the Korean War Veterans  
Association of the United States of America cordially invite you  
to attend*

***Veterans Day at the Korean War Veterans Memorial***

*Friday, November Eleventh, Two Thousand Sixteen  
at 4:00 PM*



***RSVP~ 703-740-7596  
or jrfisher1121@verizon.net***

***Business Attire or Service Dress***

19.

**MASSACUSETTS APPROVES KOREAN DEFENSE**

**VETERANS MONUMENT:** Korea Defense Veterans are about to get their first dedicated monument! It will be on the site of the Korea War Memorial in Charlestown, MA. The memorial was conceived, designed, and constructed by the Korea Veterans of America which is Chapter#299 of the KWVA. Other monuments similar to this one are being planned in the New York/New Jersey area and on the West Coast. Jeff Brodeur, Second Vice President of the KWVA, was the force behind this effort and through his tireless efforts it will come into being on November 10, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. at the Charlestown site. All are welcome to attend the dedication, and if they choose, they may still make a donation in any amount to its' overall cost. Special thanks go out to Jongwoo Han, PhD., President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc. and World History Digital Education Foundation, Inc. for their financial support, as well the members of the KWVA who helped make this dream a reality. Membership in the KWVA is open to all who served in Korea at any time from 1950 – present. ([www.kwva.org](http://www.kwva.org))



20. **VETERANS DAY 2017:** Director Paul Cunningham has been appointed Chair of the Veterans Day 2017 Committee. Other members include Director Whitmore and Executive Director Jim Fisher. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please inform Director Cunningham.

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 2017 Veterans Day Event with the requirement that 2 signatures be required for all checks.
- 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 open to the public on a “first come-first seated” basis after 8:00AM

**21. NOMINATE A MILITARY CHILD OF THE YEAR:** The military family-oriented nonprofit Operation Homefront is now accepting Military Child of the Year nominations through Dec. 5, 2016. The annual awards program, now in its 9th year, will recognize six outstanding young people ages eight to 18 with \$10,000 each, new laptops, and will be flown with a parent or guardian to attend an awards gala April 6 in Washington, D.C. Nominations are also being accepted for a Military Child of the Year Award for Innovation, for youth age 13-18. The winner of this category will receive \$5,000, mentorship by award sponsor Booz Allen Hamilton, as well as be flown with a parent or guardian to Washington for the gala. Operation Homefront received 502 nominations last year, with the winners ranging in age from nine to 18. For more information, go to: <http://www.militarychildoftheyear.org/>.

## **22. VOICE OF DEMOCRACY**

Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the VFW’s Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition.

The VFW established the Voice of Democracy program (VOD) in 1947 to provide students grades 9-12 the opportunity to express themselves in regards to democratic ideas and principles.

The national first-place winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college or vocational/technical school. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$16,000, and the first-place winner from each (state) VFW Department wins a minimum scholarship of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. **STUDENTS CAN WIN \$30,000!**

### **WHO CAN ENTER:**

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12 (on the Nov. 1 deadline), who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories.

### **HOW TO ENTER:**

[Click here to access the Voice of Democracy 2016-17 entry form and brochure.](#)

[To view the complete list of national scholarship awards available, click here.](#)

If you experience problems with downloading or printing the application, please try to access the entry form using Internet Explorer. If you continue to experience problems, please contact the VFW National Headquarters at [kharter@vfw.org](mailto:kharter@vfw.org) for assistance.

## **THE 2016-17 THEME IS: MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA**

Students should record their reading of the draft to an audio CD or flash drive. The recording can be no shorter than three minutes and no longer than five minutes (plus or minus five seconds). Entries begin at the Post level. Once the student creates their essay and completes burning the audio version to an audio CD/flash drive, they can submit their typed version, CD/flash drive and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post by the November 1 deadline.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.  
Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

### **23. PRAYER LIST:**

- Mrs. Virginia Edwards (Sonny's wife) – remission
- Chaplain Jack Keeps Family – Loss of his Grandson
- Fred Ragusa's wife – Recovery
- Fred Ragusa – Recent replacement of a pacemaker
- COL Bill Weber – Fitting of new prosthesis
- Director George Bruzgis – Operation on his legs – Circulation problems
- Dody Green – Upcoming heart surgery

### **24. VFW: ARTICLE ON THE SECOND KOREAN WAR:**

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.

Respectfully submitted,

*James R. Fisher*

James R. Fisher  
National Executive Director  
Korean War Veterans Association, USA