



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

Washington, D.C.

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The following monthly update for August 2017 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

1. **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards - AS 8-22-17

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH 24

NEW MEMBERS TYTD 335

ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 13,274

ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 12,780

DECREASE 494

DECEASED COMRADES TYTD 535 AVG/MO 67

DEPARTMENTS OR CHAPTERS RECRUITED 3 PLUS NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH MA-3 NC-3 NY-3 PA-4. ONLY 22 DEPARTMENTS OR CHAPTERS RECRUITED NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH.

2. **Flu Shots Start Tuesday:** Beginning Aug. 15, all VA-enrolled veterans can begin receiving annual flu shots at their local Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacies. While this immunization program is limited to just VA patients, Walgreens can provide flu shots to most VFW members and their families through other coverage programs, such as TRICARE, Medicare and most insurances. [Locate your closest Walgreen's or Duane Reade.](#)

# 2017 KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*October 4 - 8, 2017*

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel

777 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510-2102

**Note: Members driving their car subject to special discounted parking fee**

## Wednesday, October 4

<u>Start Time</u>	<u>End Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Location</u>
8:00a	- 4:00p	KWVA Board Members/Officers Arrive		Hotel
5:00p	- 8:00p	Registration Desk Open		Lobby
6:30p	- 8:30p	Welcome Reception		Monticello Room

## Thursday, October 5

8:00a	- 11:00p	KWVA Summer Board Meeting		Brandon A & B
9:00a	- 5:00p	Registration Desk Open		Lobby
11:30a	- 4:00p	Tour – US Naval Facility - Norfolk	\$52.00	Tour
10:00a	- 6:00p	Hospitality Room Open		Monticello Room

## Friday, October 6

9:00a	- 5:00p	Registration Desk Open		Lobby
9:00a	- 11:00p	KWVA Annual Membership Meeting		Providence Ballroom 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
1:00p	- 4:00p	Tour–Nauticus Museum & USS Battleship Wisconsin	\$36.00	Nauticus
1:00p	- 9:00p	Hospitality Room Open		Monticello Room
1:00p	- 5:00p	Korean War Veteran Interviews		Westover Room 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor

## Saturday, October 7

9:00a	- 11:00a	Korean War Veteran Interviews		Westover Room 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor
10:30a	- 3:00p	Tour -Victory Rover Harbor Cruise	\$65.00	Hampton Roads Harbor
		Tour- General Douglas McArthur Memorial Wreath Presentation		McArthur Memorial
11:00p	- 5:00p	Hospitality Room Open		McArthur Memorial
6:30p	- 10:00p	Reception and Banquet	\$35.00	Monticello Room Providence Ballroom 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor

## Sunday, October 8

8:00a	- 9:30a	Memorial Service and Farewell Brunch	\$25.00	Monticello Room
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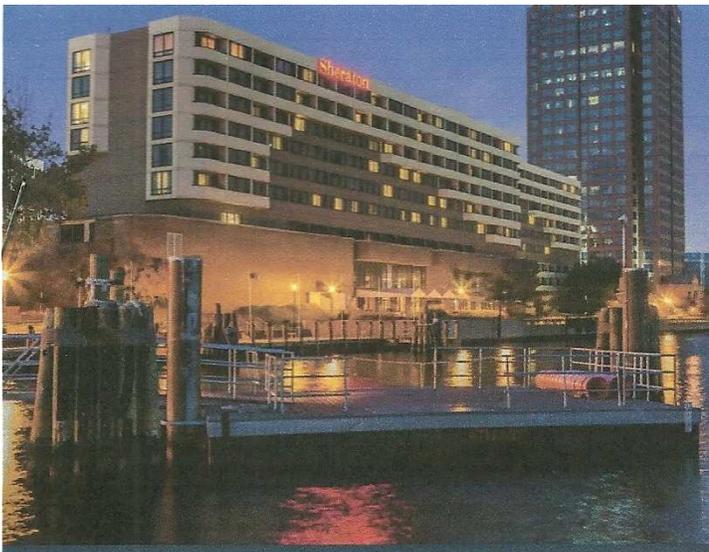
Shuttle Bus – Available to transport visitors of the Sheraton to downtown locations, the Mall and the AMTRAK Station

Parking – Self parking at the Dominion Parking lot - \$8.00 a day

Valet Parking at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel with a handicapped placard or license plate - \$8.00 a day. Valet Parking at the Sheraton Waterside hotel with **no handicapped** placard or license plate - \$24.00 a day

Registration desk will be in the main lobby upon arrival

Vendor Tables and exhibits will be located in and around the hospitality room located on the Lobby Floor



## 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**

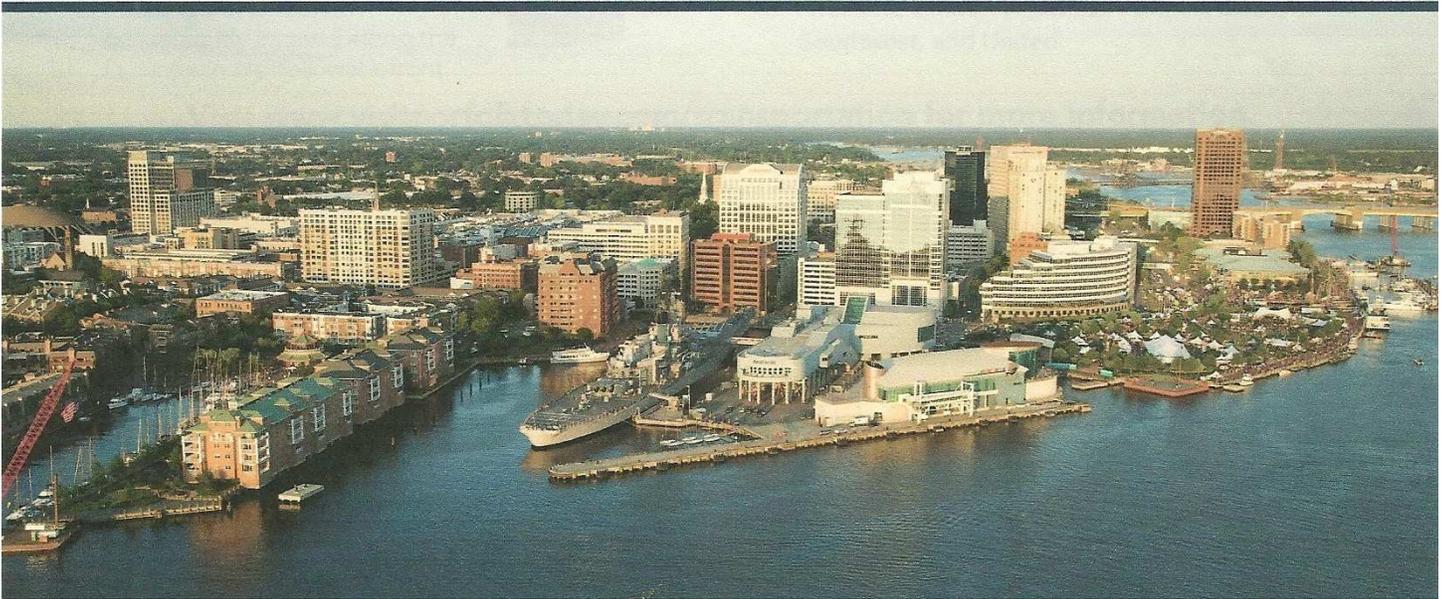
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/KWA2017> or call 1-800-325-3535 and ask for the Korean War Veterans Association

### **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.



## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2017; 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM

- Board the motor coach with your tour guide and depart for the **Norfolk Naval Base**, where you'll first enjoy lunch at one of the officer's clubs. Then, tour the base, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 59 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 18 aircraft squadrons and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 70,000 military personnel. Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.



- Next enjoy a stop at **Doumar's**, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine. Abe Doumar created the first ice cream cone at the World's Fair of 1904 in St. Louis. It was so successful that he designed a four-iron waffle machine that he launched during the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. Today, the family business still bakes cones on the original cone machine. While at Doumar's, guests will be given an introduction and history and everyone will be treated to an ice cream and cone!

**PRICE: \$52 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. LUNCH AND ICE CREAM TREAT INCLUDED.**

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2017; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

- Board the motor coach and learn about **Norfolk's** colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus, a maritime center, the Battleship Wisconsin, the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest. Downtown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial, a beautiful \$34million cruise terminal, waterfront condos and state of the art shopping area.
- Next visit **Nauticus**, a unique and thriving campus of visitor attractions that explores the economic, naval, and natural powers of the sea. Features here include a series of interactive exhibits, 3D, high-def films in the 250-person theater, and aquariums of marine life. Also housed here is the **Hampton Roads Naval Museum**, one of ten museums officially operated by the U.S. Navy. Highlights of the naval battles and exhibits of detailed ship models, artwork, and memorabilia are showcased throughout.
- A true highlight of any visit to Nauticus is a self-guided tour of the **Battleship Wisconsin**, one of the famous Iowa-class ships. This great ship saw action in WWII, the Korean War and most recently in the Persian Gulf War. The Wisconsin is permanently berthed beside Nauticus where it is accessed by a connecting walkway. Explore the main deck and recently opened portions of the interior to learn about this famous ship, those who fought and served on board and the role that this mighty warship has played in the defense of our nation.



**PRICE: \$36 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE.**

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 07, 2017; 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

- Embark on a cruise on the **Victory Rover** through the bustling Hampton Roads Harbor, one of the largest in the world. Enjoy fascinating and entertaining commentary during the two-hour excursion aboard this naval themed vessel. Take in the sights of aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, guided cruisers and all of the other ships that form the world's most powerful armada. Enjoy a boxed lunch on board.



- Next visit the **MacArthur Memorial** for a glimpse into our country's history. Here you will view the outstanding collection housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and achievements of five-star General Douglas MacArthur. You will also have the opportunity to view the short film which chronicles the General's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.



# CALL FOR ELECTIONS

The membership is hereby notified that elections will be held in the spring of 2018 for the following National Korean War Veterans Association, INC. (KWVA) positions:

The office of PRESIDENT,  
The office of FIRST VICE –PRESIDENT,  
The office of SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT, and  
The offices of four (4) DIRECTORS.

The PRESIDENT, FIRST and SECOND VICE PRESIDENT will serve terms of 2 years: 2018 -2020.  
DIRECTORS will serve 3-year terms: 2018-2021

No later than December 15, 2017, any regular members in good standing of the KWVA seeking to run for the aforementioned offices shall make their intentions known to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, L T. Whitmore, in writing, using the following format:

## **Requirements: Applicants must:**

**A.** Present proof of service by submitting a separate signed Official KWVA Membership Application Form showing eligible service years and a statement releasing the application form for verification by the Elections Committee (no fee required).

**B.** Present a current photograph in which the applicant is the central feature and which is suitable for publication in The Graybeards.

**C.** Submit a letter, signed and dated, limited to approximately one (1) page, including the following:

1) Your intent to run for an office and the office sought.

2) A resume of your qualifications for this office, stating any experience that will be of benefit to the Association.

3) Your current mailing address, telephone number, email address, available, and KWVA membership number.

4) A statement that you will attend all called meetings of the Board of Directors and will respond to all calls for Business Without a Meeting, and that you understand that two (2) unexcused absences could be used for your removal from office.

5) A statement that your dues are current through the *entire term of the office* that you are seeking.

*Note: Payment of delinquent dues shall not be retroactive for the purpose of establishing eligibility to run for office with- in the Association.*

**D.** Send the above items by USPS Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. P or USPS Express Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the Elections Committee Chairman, to arrive not later than 5:00PM EST 15 December 2017. Scanned documents and pictures sent by email will be deleted.

Applicants are requested to contact the Elections Committee Chairman if they have any questions.

Application packages and questions are to be addressed to:

L T. Whitmore  
Election Committee Chairman  
Churchland Psychiatry Associates  
3300 Academy Ave.  
Portsmouth, VA 23707



## Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency



### Progress in Korea as of August 1, 2017

<b><u>Korean War Statistics:</u></b> Total unaccounted-for				7,740 <sup>1</sup>
Total joint field activities (JFAs) completed in North Korea: 1996 – present				33
Total joint field activities (JFAs/KFEs) completed in South Korea: 1996 – present				54
<b>Category</b>	<b><u>Total Each Category</u></b>	<b><u>Accounted-for</u></b>		
Remains recovered and repatriated through JFAs	229	144	(63%)	
Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations, 1990 – 1994 in 208 boxes <sup>2</sup>	400	172	(43%)	
Remains repatriated through North Korean unilateral operations 2007	6	6	(100%)	
Remains disinterred from the “Punchbowl” Cemetery in Hawaii, 1999 – present <sup>3</sup>	123	79	(64%)	
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in China	1	1	(100%)	
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in Japan	1	1	(100%)	
Remains repatriated through recovery operations in South Korea, since 1982	21	13	(62%)	
Total remains identified and accounted-for, 1982 – present	781	416	(53%)	

#### Korean War Accounting Efforts on the Peninsula

- Korean War Personnel Accounting Strategy – main avenues of pursuit are:
  - **Resolution of the Live Prisoner Issue.** Finding live Americans is the highest priority of our accounting process. Department of Defense (DoD), with the full support of the U.S. intelligence community, aggressively investigates all credible reports and sightings of alleged American survivors of the Korean War living in North Korea. Since 1995, more than 25,000 defectors from North Korea have been screened for information concerning Americans possibly living in the North. To date, this effort has produced no useful information concerning live Americans. Most reports of live Americans in North Korea pertain to six known U.S. military defectors. Of the six defectors, only one remains alive in North Korea. Four are reported to have died in the North, and one, Sergeant Jenkins, was returned to U.S. control in 2004.
  - **Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in North Korea.** JFAs consist of investigative and recovery operations. The U.S. conducted 33 JFAs in North Korea from 1996 through 2005. The U.S.

<sup>1</sup> This is a working number from the Personnel Missing Korea (PMKOR) list.

<sup>2</sup> 208 boxes of remains received from DPRK unilateral operations; many remains were commingled; possibly 375-400 remains in the 208 boxes.

<sup>3</sup> Original estimate of 866 sets of remains located in Punchbowl when exhumations began in 1999. The Total displayed represents disinterred remains to date.

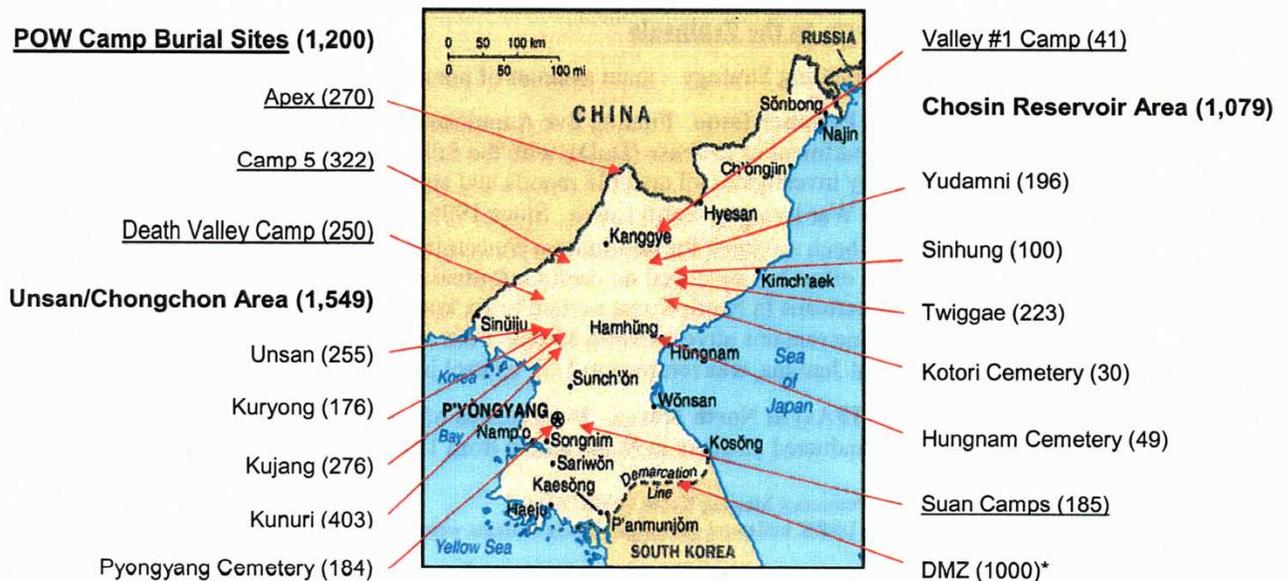
government pays fair and reasonable compensation for the efforts associated with recovering remains, but does not pay for remains or information.

- **Identification of remains already recovered and under U.S. control.** Unidentified Korean War remains are located at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and at DPAA's Laboratory in Hawaii. Efforts are underway to identify these remains using DNA and other methods.
- **Investigative and remains recovery operations in South Korea and China.** Approximately 950 remains are located in South Korea and fewer than 20 are known to be in China.
- **Korean War era archives.** DoD continues to conduct archival research in the U.S., South Korea, Russia, Eastern Europe, and China. We have also conducted research in North Korean archives, and currently we have an arrangement with China for the Peoples Liberation Army to search its military records for information on U.S. personnel. Chinese Communist Forces administered and operated the POW camps in North Korea for most of the war.
- **Oral history programs in the U.S., South Korea, Russia, and China.** DoD periodically interviews Korean War veterans in the U.S., South Korea, Russia and China. These efforts are designed to uncover information that will help determine the circumstances of loss for missing servicemen; build our knowledge base of Korean War loss incidents; and gain eyewitness accounts of prison camp life and prisoner movements.

**Cold War Loss-Sea of Japan:** On April 15, 1969, North Korean fighter aircraft shot down a U.S. Navy EC-121 aircraft carrying a crew of 31 over the Sea of Japan. U.S. Navy ships recovered two remains; 29 U.S. service members are still unaccounted-for as a result of this incident.

### Major Remains Concentrations in North Korea

Estimated numbers of remains are in parenthesis



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### 3. ARMY RETIREE APPRECIATION DAYS

Attend and receive benefits information, renew acquaintances and ID Cards, get medical checkups, and receive other services. Some RADs include dinners or golf tournaments. For more information, contact the Retirement Services Officer sponsoring the RAD.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>
JB San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, TX	Oct. 14	(210) 221-9004
Fort Wainwright, AK	Oct. 14	(502) 624-1765
Camp Humphreys, Korea	Oct. 14	(563) 445-0191
Fort McCoy, WI	Sept. 8	(608) 388-3716
Fort Carson, CO	Oct. 14	(210) 221-9004
Fort Belvoir, VA	Sept. 8	(703) 806-4551
Rheinland-Pfalz/Ramstein, Germany	Oct. 18	(907) 353-2099
Fort Leonard Wood, MO	Sept. 8-9	(573) 596-0947
Stuttgart, Germany	Oct. 19	(315) 753-8839
Schofield Barracks, HI (Fort Shafter)	Sept. 9	(808) 655-1514
Fort Riley, KS	Oct. 20	(719) 526-2840
Fort Sill, OK	Sept. 21-23	(580) 442-2645
Schinnen, Netherlands	Oct 20	0631-411-8838
Redstone Arsenal, AL	Sept. 21-23	(256) 842-2421
Fort Bragg, NC	Oct. 20-21	07031-15-3442
Selfridge, MI	Sept. 23	(586) 239-5580
BENELUX-Brussels	Oct. 21	0032-65-44-7267
Fort Drum, NY	Sept. 23	(315) 772-6434
Fort Polk, LA	Oct. 21	(337) 531-0402
Twin Ports, MN	Sept. 29	(608) 388-3716
USAG-Bavaria	Oct. 24	0964-183-8709
Fort Lee, VA	Sept. 30	(804) 734-6555
USAG-Ansbach	Oct. 25	0981-183-3301
Fort Bliss, TX	Sept. 30	(915) 569-6233
USAG-Italy	Oct. 26	0444-71-7262
Fort Campbell, KY	Sept. 30	(270) 798-5280
Fort Meade, MD	Oct. 27	(301) 677-9603
Fort Snelling, MN	Sept 30	(612) 713-4664
Fort Rucker, AL	Oct. 27	(334)255-9124
JB Meyer-Henderson Hall, VA	Oct. 6	(703) 696-5948
Fort Hood, TX	Oct. 27-28	(254) 287-5210
Carlisle Barracks, PA	Oct. 7	(717) 245-4501
Wiesbaden, Germany	Oct. 28	0611-705-5338
JB Ellington Field House-Houston, TX	Oct. 8	(210) 221-9004
Fort Leavenworth, KS	Oct. 28	(913) 684-2425
Fort Knox, Ky	Oct. 13	(502) 624-1765
Fort Hamilton, NY	Oct. 28	(718) 630-4552
Rock Island, IL	Oct. 14	(563) 445-0191
Fort Benning, GA	Nov. 3	(706) 545-1805

**4. KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL OF REMEMBRANCE:**

Are you aware that the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation (a non-profit Foundation chartered in the District of Columbia is seeking funding to place the names of the 36,574 fallen veterans on a Wall of Remembrance (WOR) to be added to the National Korean War Veterans Memorial in our Nation's Capital, so as to honor all who gave their all during that War? That Wall of Remembrance will finally give credence to the Memorial's theme that "Freedom is not Free." Just as Huntsville honors its veterans from every war, so will the Foundation honor our nation's veterans fallen in battle during the Korean War.

Someone once said that "our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we can never fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice" and that the Foundation seeks to do. It was just last October when the Foundation's efforts to shepherd legislation through numerous Congresses finally succeeded in having the legislation signed into law (Public Law 114-230) to build that Wall - using solely private, tax-deductible, funding. If you are interested in writing another or follow up story on particularly the Korean War Veterans to let your community know of the Foundation's efforts, please get back in touch with me.

**KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL  
WALL OF REMEMBRANCE**

Help us commemorate those who served and sacrificed.

**To make a contribution, please visit:**



**[WWW.KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG](http://WWW.KOREANWARVETSMEMORIAL.ORG)**

The Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt foundation chartered in the District of Columbia as a 501C3 Foundation.

Donations made to the Foundation are justified as a tax deduction by the donor



**"Freedom Is Not Free"**



# 2017 FUNDRAISER

1950-1954

1954-Present

## KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION INC.

Winners to be drawn at October banquet 2017.  
Donation \$20 for each ticket. To enter this fundraiser



### ANNOUNCING THE 2017 KWVA FUNDRAISER

The time has come to enter the 2017 KWVA Fundraiser. As always, we need your help to keep the KWVA functioning. Several things are threatening our future. With your help we can eliminate them.

First and foremost, I want to thank every member that participated in the 2016 fundraiser. Our 2016 goal of \$70,000 was surpassed with \$75,026 raised. This included individuals that preferred not to participate in the drawing and gave direct donations. A few others wrote KWVA and their member number on tickets. Had they been drawn, the prize would have been put into the fundraiser total. Thank you all, it is greatly appreciated. That being said, let's reach our goal of \$70,000 again this year. There are no administrative costs. All donations go to helping support the Graybeards, "Tell America" and other KWVA programs.

The "ALL CASH PRIZES" are: FIRST PRIZE \$1500 plus FOUR \$1000 PRIZES. Winners can: Take a vacation; pay bills; or purchase a special item. These are "MEMBER ONLY PRIZES". Each ticket requires a donation of \$20.00. Be certain to put your member number on the ticket. I look forward to again notifying the winners. President Stevens enjoyed picking the 2016 Winners and looks forward to picking the 2017 winners. We thank you and wish "GOOD LUCK" to all members that donate.

I especially again ask all members that have not had to pay dues, in at least the last 10 years, including "LIFE", "POW" and "HONORARY" members to please help support the costs of the Graybeards Magazine. It is not our goal to reduce issues of the magazine just to save the money.

In addition to the chances in the enclosed flyer, KWVA Challenge Coins, with Bulk Prices, Hats, Pins, Patches (including the "NEW KOREA WAR and KOREA DEFENSE PATCH") are available through our Membership Office. Please call Sheila 217-345-4414 or visit the KWVA.org website to purchase these items. KWVA Coins are an excellent way to raise funds for your Chapters. They make fantastic gifts for your supporters and our Wounded Military cherish these coins. I personally, along with 2nd VP Jeff Brodeur, and others have given hundreds of these challenge coins to our Wounded Warriors over the last several years when visiting Bethesda/Walter Reed hospitals. The wounded troops are always happy to receive these special coins from the Korean War Veterans. We are proud to do it, and you can do it also. Buy some coins at bulk prices. Sell some for \$20.00 and give some away to the wounded personnel in the hospitals and veterans homes. Donate some of the profit back to the KWVA. We need your support.

If anyone has a question, problem or needs help in any way, please contact Director Thomas McHugh, Chairman, Fundraiser Committee 908-852-1964 tmmchugh@msn.com Address available in the Graybeards. Thanking you in advance for your participation. Always Remember: "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE"

Thomas McHugh, Director  
Chairman, Fundraiser Committee

Winners will be announced on [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org) and in the Greybeards Magazine

Deadline for ticket donations is Sept 15, 2017

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**Make check payable to: KWVA** or Pay by Credit Card     Visa     Master Card  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code \_\_\_\_\_

You need not tear the page out of the Greybeards magazine. You June copy the page and send tickets with your payment to:                    KWVA Membership Office, P.O. Box 407,

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<b><i>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</i></b>	<b><i>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</i></b>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____	City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Membership No: _____	Membership No: _____

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<b><i>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</i></b>	<b><i>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</i></b>
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Membership No: _____	Membership No: _____

5. **SECDEF on North Korea:** Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis released a [statement](#) in response to growing threats emanating from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK): “The United States and our allies have the demonstrated capabilities and unquestionable commitment to defend ourselves from an attack. Kim Jong Un should take heed of the United Nations Security Council’s unified voice, and statements from governments the world over, who agree the DPRK poses a threat to global security and stability. The DPRK must choose to stop isolating itself and stand down its pursuit of nuclear weapons. The DPRK should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people. President Trump was informed of the growing threat last December and on taking office his first orders to me emphasized the readiness of our ballistic missile defense and nuclear deterrent forces. While our State Department is making every effort to resolve this global threat through diplomatic means, it must be noted that the combined allied militaries now possess the most precise, rehearsed and robust defensive and offensive capabilities on Earth. The DPRK regime’s actions will continue to be grossly overmatched by ours and would lose any arms race or conflict it initiates.”
6. **Take the Arlington National Cemetery Survey:** Every cemetery has a lifespan, and the hallowed ground that is Arlington National Cemetery is no exception. Based on current projections, Arlington will run out of burial space in about 25 years unless changes are made to restrict eligibility, expand the geographical footprint of the cemetery, or some combination of the above. Via Public Law 114-58, Congress directed the Secretary of the Army to examine ways to extend the life expectancy of the cemetery well into the future, and the report released earlier this year identified a number of options ranging from continuing the status quo to restricting interments to Medal of Honor recipients only. The Army has not yet taken a position regarding the recommendations. Instead, the Army is opening a national dialogue to help ensure all military personnel and veterans are aware of the challenges facing Arlington National Cemetery. [Read the report and take the survey.](#)
7. **WHY IS VETS' AGENCY CHANGING PROGRAMS FOR UN SOLDIERS?** By Vince Courtenay

The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) has been doing an outstanding job in honoring

<b>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</b>	<b>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</b>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____	City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
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<b>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</b>	<b>Return this ticket with donation of \$20</b>
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Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____	City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____
Membership No: _____	Membership No: _____

and recognizing the veterans from 21 nations who came to South Korea's defense during the Korean War. In recent years it has been spectacular.

When a new international affairs officer was appointed to head up the unit in 1997, he was virtually a one-man operation.

But Yongjin Jeon was a man of vision. A 20-year veteran of the MPVA he quickly built up a very active international affairs operation.

In 2008 he successfully got the MPVA to take over the veteran revisit program. Until then it had been operated by the ROK Korean Veterans Association. He also instituted the November 11 Turn Toward Busan ceremony in Korea as a government program. Each year veterans visit the graves of comrades buried in Busan. They hold a minute of silence there in a powerfully emotional ceremony. In nations around the world other veterans also turn toward Busan on that day, and join in the commemoration with a salute and minute of silence. But in July, 2016, Mr. Jeon was promoted to head up MPVA activities for a substantial jurisdiction in the southwest quadrant of Korea. For the remainder of the year, the programs he had in place continued at the same high level of efficiency.

This year things changed drastically. The veteran revisit program is a case in point. Several times each year the MPVA brings veterans back to Korea to witness the dramatic development of the nation they helped to make secure and free.

There is an understandable rule those only veterans who have never participated before, or those who have not participated in the previous five years, are eligible. But in April, several veterans who had signed up for the annual Commonwealth revisit and were already ticketed suddenly were rejected from the program. The MPVA, without notice, had changed the rules. It had to be a full five years (60 months), plus one additional month since the veteran's last visit, the MPVA international affairs officials asserted. Veterans who had visited Korea five years earlier, in 2012, were not eligible to participate until one month following the 2017 revisit date, they said. In the case of Commonwealth veterans, that effectively changed the five-year rule to a six-year rule. The next Commonwealth revisit is not set until April, 2018.

### **Offensively barring veterans from Turn Toward Busan ceremony**

The MPVA international affairs department also single-handedly and drastically changed the November 11 Turn Toward Busan program, which has been held throughout the world for the past 11 years. The program began in 2007 as a worldwide veterans initiative. It was planned and managed by the veterans themselves. The Korean portion of it was adopted by the MPVA as a national ceremony in Korea in 2008. The MPVA invites and hosts veterans to participate in the observance in the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan. They are welcomed and cheered by residents of Busan. Air raid alert sirens sound in the city at 11 a.m., beckoning everyone to observe one minute of silence for the UN soldiers who fell in Korea. But this year, without making contact or consulting with any of the veterans or veterans groups who plan and participate in the program within their home countries, the MPVA international team cut all of the veterans out of the Korean portion of the program.

First, they canceled the traditional October UN Day bereaved family program. That generous program brings to Korea the descendants and loved ones of soldiers who fell in the war, so they can visit their graves on United Nations Day. Then the MPVA awarded all of those bereaved family members the places in the November program that traditionally belong to the veterans. It is alarming and offensive that the MPVA international team has taken a program established by the veterans themselves and made this drastic change. The global Turn Toward Busan service is well established and observed in many nations. The Korea Veterans Association of Canada has held a national service in the Canadian capital every year since 1997. The U.S. Korean War Veterans Association holds a Turn Toward Busan tribute on November 11, Veterans Day. It also has a tribute at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington on that day, and at other locations in the various states. Services are also held in Colombia, England, Ethiopia, Luxembourg, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Turkey and other nations. In homes and hospital rooms throughout Canada and the United States, and in some of the other countries, many infirm veterans silently hold their own private services. They turn respectfully toward Busan on November 11. The understanding of every participating veteran is that there will be living comrades holding a service like theirs at the UN Cemetery in Busan; veterans who are there

representing them as they pay homage to their fallen comrades.

The world's veterans greatly appreciate the various privileges and courtesies proffered to them and their families by the Korean Government. Such abundant tribute is unprecedented anywhere in the world. Yet they must wonder what in the world the officials at the MPVA could possibly be thinking to so drastically change these programs without consulting the veterans or their veteran associations around the world. *Vince Courtenay is a Canadian Korean War veteran.*

## 8. REVISIT TO KOREA PROGRAM:

Over 350 veterans and family members returned to Korea on the ROK government subsidized program that was commenced in 1975. The big change this year was that the Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA) approved Korea Defense Veterans, and their families, going for the first time. We have been told that there are 160 allocations for Korean War Veterans and a family member to participate in 2017.

<u>Korea Revisit</u> (Seoul, DMZ, etc)	<u>Korea Pre-tour</u> (Above 38th parallel)	<u>Busan Post-tour</u> (South by bullet train, Incheon, Kunsan AFB)
17 - 23 Sept	14 -23 Sept	23 - 27 Sept
21 - 27 Oct	18 - 27 Oct	27 - 31 Oct

If you would like to register, send Jamie Wiedhahn an quick Email at: [jwiedhahn@miltours.com](mailto:jwiedhahn@miltours.com) He will respond immediately with details. You can also check the KWVA Web site at: [www.KWVA.org](http://www.KWVA.org)

## 9. Helpful Services: Phone Numbers and Web Sites

### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Regional Office (Benefits)	800.827.1000	VA.gov
Office of the Secretary	202.273.4800	VA.gov
Office of the Inspector General	202.461.4702	
<a href="https://www.va.gov/oig">https://www.va.gov/oig</a>		
Office of the National Cemetery System	202.461.6240	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov">www.cem.va.gov</a>
Arlington National Cemetery	703.607.8585	<a href="http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil">www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</a>
Board of Veterans Appeals	202.565.5436	<a href="http://www.bva.va.gov">www.bva.va.gov</a>
Central Office (Main Switchboard)	202.273.5400	
Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility	703.607.8585	<a href="http://www.cem.va.gov">www.cem.va.gov</a>
Government Life Insurance	800.669.8477	
<a href="http://www.insurance.va.gov">www.insurance.va.gov</a>		
Personal Locator	202.273.4950	

### Other Veteran Government Agencies

Department of Defense	703.545.6700	<a href="https://www.defense.gov">https://www.defense.gov</a>
Veterans Employment & Training Office	202.693.4700	<a href="https://www.dol.gov/vets">https://www.dol.gov/vets</a>
Small Business Administration (VA)	202.205.6600	<a href="https://www.sba.gov">https://www.sba.gov</a>

### Congressional Committees

Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.224.9126	<a href="http://www.veterans.senate.gov">www.veterans.senate.gov</a>
House Committee on Veterans Affairs	202.225.3527	<a href="https://veterans.house.gov">https://veterans.house.gov</a>
Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition	202.225.6600	
<a href="http://www.ruralhealthinfo.org">www.ruralhealthinfo.org</a>		

### Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	202.418.3453	<a href="http://uscourts.cavc.gov">uscourts.cavc.gov</a>
Questions on specific Cases	202.501.5970	
National Organization for Vets Advocates (Attorneys)	877.483.8238	<a href="https://vetadvocates.org">https://vetadvocates.org</a>
USO	888.484.3876	<a href="https://www.uso.org">https://www.uso.org</a>

### POW/MIA

Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs	703.699.1169	<a href="http://www.dpaa.mil/">http://www.dpaa.mil/</a>
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**Incarcerated Veteran**

Federal Bureau of Prisons

202.307.3198

<https://www.bop.gov>**PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)**

VA Readjustment Counseling Service

202.273.8967

[www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/317](http://www.benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/317)

VA PTSD Information

802.296.6300

[www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov)

VA PTSD Help – In Crisis – Suicide Prevention

800.273.8255

[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

National Center for PTSD – Behavioral Science Division

857.364.4172

[www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions)**Locator and Reunion Services**

Army Worldwide Locator

866.771.6357

[hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per\\_locator.htm](http://hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm)

Navy Times Locator Services

901.874.3388

<https://www.navytimes.com>

Personnel Locator

800.333.4636

**Archives**

Air Force Support Office

202.404.2264

[www.afhistory.af.mil](http://www.afhistory.af.mil)

Marine Corps Historical Office

703.432.4877

[guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives](http://guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives)

National Archives – Military Records

866.272.6272

[www.archives.gov/research/military](http://www.archives.gov/research/military)

Naval Historical Center (Operations Archives)

202.433.3170

[www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil)

United States Army Center of Military History

866.272.6272

[www.history.army.mil](http://www.history.army.mil)**Women Veterans**

Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation

703.533.1155

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

# US ARMY DIRECTORY

<p><b>Arlington National Cemetery:</b> (877) 907-8585 <a href="http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil">http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</a></p> <p><b>Armed Forces Retirement Home:</b> (800) 422-9988; <a href="http://www.afrh.gov">http://www.afrh.gov</a></p> <p><b>Army &amp; Air Force Exchange Service:</b> <a href="http://www.shopmyexchange.com">www.shopmyexchange.com</a> <b>Army</b></p> <p><b>Echoes:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes</a> Editor's e-mail address: <a href="mailto:ArmyEchoes@mail.mil">ArmyEchoes@mail.mil</a></p> <p><b>Army Echoes Blog:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog</a></p> <p><b>Army Emergency Relief:</b> (866) 878-6378; <a href="http://www.aerhq.org">http://www.aerhq.org</a></p> <p><b>Army Facebook:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/USArmy">https://www.facebook.com/USArmy</a></p> <p><b>Army Flickr:</b> <a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/</a></p> <p><b>Army Homepage:</b> <a href="http://www.army.mil">http://www.army.mil</a></p> <p><b>Army Live Blog:</b> <a href="http://armylive.dodlive.mil/">http://armylive.dodlive.mil/</a></p> <p><b>Army mobile phone apps:</b> <a href="http://www.army.mil/mobile/">http://www.army.mil/mobile/</a></p> <p><b>Army Retirement Services:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</a></p> <p><b>Army Stand To!:</b> <a href="http://www.army.mil/standto/">http://www.army.mil/standto/</a></p> <p><b>Army Lodging Program:</b> (877) 711-8326; <a href="http://www.pal.army.mil">http://www.pal.army.mil</a> Reservations: <a href="http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com">http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com</a></p> <p><b>Army Twitter:</b> <a href="https://twitter.com/USArmy/">https://twitter.com/USArmy/</a></p> <p><b>Army YouTube:</b> <a href="http://www.youtube.com/usarmy">http://www.youtube.com/usarmy</a></p> <p><b>Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil</a></p> <p><b>Combat-Related Special Compensation:</b> (866) 281-3254 opt.4; <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC">https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC</a></p> <p><b>Commissary:</b> <a href="http://www.commissaries.com">http://www.commissaries.com</a></p> <p><b>Concurrent Retired &amp; Disability Pay:</b> (800) 321-1080, <a href="http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html">http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html</a></p> <p><b>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:</b> (855) 411-2372 <a href="http://www.consumerfinance.gov/">http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</a></p> <p><b>Death — Report a Retired Soldier's Death:</b> Call HQDA Casualty Operations Center, (800) 626-3317; from overseas, call (502) 613-3317 collect. <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death">https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death</a></p> <p><b>DS Logon:</b> <a href="https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/">https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/</a></p> <p><b>Funeral Honors (Military):</b> Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218 <a href="https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/">https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/</a></p> <p><b>ID Card Facilities:</b> (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: <a href="http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi">www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsi</a></p> <p><b>Legal Assistance Locator (Military):</b> <a href="http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php">http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php</a></p> <p><b>Long Term Care Insurance:</b> (800) 582-3337 <a href="http://www.ltcfeds.com/">http://www.ltcfeds.com/</a></p> <p><b>MyArmyBenefits:</b> <a href="http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/">http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/</a> Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);</p> <p><b>Survivor Outreach Services:</b> (855) 707-2769, <a href="https://www.sos.army.mil/">https://www.sos.army.mil/</a></p> <p><b>Reserve Component Retirements</b> (888) 276-9472 <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements">https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements</a></p> <p><b>RC Application for Retired Pay:</b> Human Resources Command; ATTN: AHRC-PDR-RCR; 1600 Spearhead Division Ave.; Dept 482; Ft Knox, KY 40122-5402; (888) 276-9472; download the application from: <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664">https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664</a></p> <p><b>Soldiers Magazine:</b> <a href="http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/">http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/</a></p> <p><b>Space-Available Travel:</b> <a href="http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site">http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site</a></p> <p><b>Soldier for Life on Facebook:</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife">www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife</a></p>	<p><b>Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act:</b> <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa</a></p> <p><b>U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge:</b> Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at <a href="https://www.shopmyexchange.com">https://www.shopmyexchange.com</a></p> <p><b>Veterans Service Records</b> — Replace DD Form 214, awards: Retired 4/1/1996 or later: Visit <a href="http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/">http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/</a>, Click on "Army White Pages" at the bottom, then log in. Next click on "Click Here to Access Your Army Record."</p> <p>Retired 3/31/1996 or earlier: Call Human Resources Command at (888) 276-9472 or visit <a href="http://vetrecs.archives.gov">http://vetrecs.archives.gov</a> National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records); 1 Archive Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138-1002</p> <p><b>DFAS</b> (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) <a href="http://www.dfas.mil/">http://www.dfas.mil/</a> myPay (888) 332-7411; <a href="https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx">https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx</a> Retiree/Annuitant web page <a href="http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html">http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html</a></p> <p><b>Social Security</b> (800) 772-1213 <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/</a>; If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html</a>.</p> <p><b>Medicare</b> (800) 633-4227 <a href="http://www.medicare.gov">http://www.medicare.gov</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE</b> <a href="http://www.tricare.mil">http://www.tricare.mil</a></p> <p><b>Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator:</b> <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao">http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao</a>, or nearest military treatment facility</p> <p><b>TRICARE North:</b> (877) 874-2273; <a href="http://www.hnfs.com">http://www.hnfs.com</a>; CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, VA, WI, WV, some ZIPs in IA, MO, TN</p> <p><b>TRICARE South:</b> (800) 444-5445; <a href="http://www.humana-military.com/">http://www.humana-military.com/</a> AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, SC, TN (except 35 TN ZIP codes near Ft Campbell), and TX (except the extreme SW El Paso area)</p> <p><b>TRICARE West:</b> (877) 988-9378; <a href="https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/">https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/</a>; AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, IA (except 82 Iowa ZIP codes near Rock Island, IL) KS, MO (except the St. Louis area), MN, MT, ND, NE, NM, NV, OR, SD, SW TX, UT, WA, WY</p> <p><b>TRICARE Overseas:</b> (888) 777-8343; <a href="http://www.tricare-overseas.com">http://www.tricare-overseas.com</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE for Life:</b> (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 <a href="http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx">http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery:</b> (877) 363-1296; <a href="http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/">http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE Network Pharmacy:</b> (877) 363-1303; <a href="http://www.express-scripts.com">http://www.express-scripts.com</a></p> <p><b>TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan:</b> (888) 838-8737; <a href="http://www.TRDP.org">http://www.TRDP.org</a></p> <p><b>US Family Health Plan:</b> <a href="http://www.usfhp.com/">http://www.usfhp.com/</a></p> <p><b>Armed Forces Recreation Centers</b> <a href="http://www.armymwr.com">http://www.armymwr.com</a></p> <p><b>Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii:</b> (800) 367-6027; <a href="http://halekoa.com">http://halekoa.com</a></p> <p><b>Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria:</b> 011-49-8821-9440 <a href="http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com">http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com</a></p> <p><b>Shades of Green, Florida:</b> (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665 <a href="http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm">http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm</a></p> <p><b>Dragon Hill, Korea:</b> 011-822-790-0016 <a href="http://www.dragonhilllodge.com">http://www.dragonhilllodge.com</a></p> <p><b>Veterans Affairs (VA) Information</b> <a href="http://www.va.gov">http://www.va.gov</a></p> <p><b>Burial &amp; Memorial Benefits:</b> <a href="http://www.cem.va.gov/">http://www.cem.va.gov/</a> (877) 907-8199</p> <p><b>Benefits and Services:</b> (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 <a href="http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/">http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</a></p> <p><b>GI Bill:</b> (888) 442-4551; <a href="http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/">http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</a></p> <p><b>Health Care Benefits:</b> (877) 222-8387; <a href="http://www.va.gov/health">http://www.va.gov/health</a></p> <p><b>Insurance:</b> SGLI/VGLI: (800) 419-1473; All other insurance: (800) 669-8477</p>
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**Sister Service Publications for Retired Service Members**

**Air Force Afterburner:** <http://www.Retirees.af.mil/afterburner/>

**Coast Guard Evening Colors:** <http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/retnews/>

**Marine Corps Semper Fi:** <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/> then click Career/Retired Marines, then Semper Fidelis Newsletter

**Navy Shift Colors:** <http://www.navy.mil/> then click Links/Shift Colors

**10. HOW TO REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIRED SOLDIER:** Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center anytime by calling (800) 626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center, who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. When reporting the death, please provide as much of the information below as you have:

- Full name
- Next of kin information
- Social security number and/or service number
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Retirement date • Copy of the death certificate
- Retired rank
- Copy of the Statement of Service (Last DD Form 214)

**11. 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:  
Chairman, Alves J. Key, Jr., Tell America Program  
5506 Emerald Park Blvd.  
Arlington, TX 79912  
817-472-7743

**12. 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: \$5,000.00 (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 opens to the public on a “first come-first seated” basis after 8:00AM

**13. 2017 Retired and Annuitant Pay Dates:**

<b>Entitlement Month</b>	<b>Retiree Payment Dates</b>	<b>Annuitant Payment Dates</b>
July 2017	August 1, 2017	August 1, 2017
August 2017	September 1, 2017	September 1, 2017
September 2017	September 29, 2017	October 2, 2017
October 2017	November 1, 2017	November 1, 2017
November 2017	December 1, 2017	December 1, 2017
December 2017	December 29, 2017	January 2, 2018



**14. POW/MIA REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. Rocky Harder, KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator. Monthly Teleconference, DPAA-Family Organizations/VSO/MSO

-- **Army Cpl. Richard J. Seadore**, 21, whose remains were identified earlier, will be buried Aug. 4 in his hometown of Long Pine, Neb. In December 1950, Seadore was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, when Chinese forces attacked and penetrated his company’s defensive line. Following the battle, Seadore could not be located. It would later be learned he had been captured and died in a North Korean POW camp in April 1951. Read more [here](#).

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Alfred G. Bensinger**, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1269833/soldier-captured-during-korean-war-accounted-for-bensinger/>

In late November 1950, Bensinger was a member of Company D, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was fighting persistent Chinese attacks in the Ch'ongch'on River area in northwestern North Korea. The battle began on the evening of Nov. 25, 1950, when the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces initiated their Second Phase offensive along the entire 8th Army front. Bensinger's battalion was heavily engaged in the battle. When withdrawal orders were issued on November 29, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ECB provided security for the Division. The following day, the battalion was ordered to withdraw from the vicinity of Kunu-ri, when it was again engaged by enemy forces down the Main Supply Route. During this withdrawal, Bensinger was captured, and was reported missing in action as of Dec. 1, 1950.

Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Bensinger's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments

Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

- **Army Pfc. Walter C. Hackenberg**, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1269928/soldier-captured-during-korean-war-accounted-for-hackenberg/> In late April 1951, Hackenberg was a member of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, along a defensive line west of Chorw'on, South Korea, when his unit was attacked by the Chinese People's Volunteer Force (CPVF) and Korean People's Army (KPA.) American troops were able to hold the lines, and when the attacks subsided, a patrol went to determine possible enemy river-crossing points. Enemy forces engaged the patrol with mortars and small arms fire, forcing the patrol to withdraw. Hackenberg could not be accounted for at the end of the battle, and he was declared missing in action as of April 25, 1951.

Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Hackenberg's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Sgt. Willie Rowe**, whose remains were identified earlier, will be buried Aug. 8 at Arlington National Cemetery. He was a member of L Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when on Nov. 25, 1950, his unit was attacked by Chinese forces in North Korea. Rowe, 22, of Hampton, Va., would be declared missing and unaccounted for following the battle. It would later be learned he had been captured but died in a North Korean POW camp in January 1951. Read more [here](#).

-- **Army Cpl. Dow F. Worden**, of Morrow, Ore., was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and was near an area known as Heartbreak Ridge when the Chinese launched a probing attack on the forward slope of Hill 1024. After repelling the attack, Worden's company was then ordered to attack the enemy on nearby Hill 867. Worden could not be accounted for after the battle, and he was declared missing in action on Sept. 29, 1951. Interment services are pending. Read more [here](#).

-- **Army Cpl. Roy J. Hopper**, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1273023/soldier-killed-during-korean-war-accounted-for-hopper/>

In July 1950, Hopper was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion 19th Infantry Regiment. He was reportedly killed in action on July 31, 1950, when his battalion, along with another battalion, was engaged in a fighting withdrawal against North Korean forces in Chinju, South Korea. The enemy had control of the area following the battle, preventing a search for his remains. After the battle Hopper's remains were not identified. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Hopper's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Cpl. Sgt. Stafford L. Morris**, 24, of Allentown, Pa., was buried Aug. 5 in Atlanta. In late November 1950, Morris was a member of Battery A, 503rd Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, which was fighting north of the town of Kujang-dong, North Korea. On December 1, his battalion began to withdraw under continuous enemy fire. It would be later learned that Morris had been captured but died in captivity on Jan. 21, 1951. [Read about Morris](#).

--**Army Sgt. Gerald J. Mueller**, captured and killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1277011/soldier-captured-during-the-korean-war-accounted-for-mueller/>

In February 1951, Mueller was a member of Battery D, 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (Automatic Weapons,) 2nd Infantry Division, which was part of a group known as Support Force 21 (SF21), providing artillery support for the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF.) On Feb. 11, 1951, while the ROKA was making an attack north toward Hongch'on, the CPVF launched a massive counterattack. Unable to withstand the numbers, the ROKA withdrew south, leaving Mueller's battery and the rest of SF21 behind to fight alone. The following day, SF21 began movement south, fighting through ambushes and roadblocks, eventually making it to Wonju. Mueller, who could not be accounted for, was declared missing in action as of Feb. 13, 1951. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

Mueller's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Sgt. Philip J. Iyotte**, killed and captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1279069/soldier>

-captured-during-the-korean-war-accounted-for-iyotte/

In February 1951, Iyotte was a member of Company E, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, assigned under 8th Army. Iyotte was declared missing in action on Feb. 9, 1951, when he was captured by Chinese forces during Operation Thunderbolt, which took place from January 25 to February 1. Operation Thunderbolt's objective was to conduct a reconnaissance in forces across the 8th Army front, to advance 30 miles to the south bank of the Han River. Sometime during the engagement, Iyotte was captured and moved to Camp 1 and Changsong. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Iyotte's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Cpl. Ernest L.R. Heilman**, captured and killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1279377/soldier> -captured-during-korean-war-accounted-for-heilman/

On Feb. 13, 1951, Heilman was a member of Battery B, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, and was declared missing in action when his unit was breaking a roadblock in the vicinity of Hoengsong, South Korea. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Heilman's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Pfc. James P. Shaw**, captured and killed during the Korean War, has now

been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1279334/soldier> - captured-during-korean-war-accounted-for-shaw/

In December 1950, Shaw was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, when enemy forces invaded the regiment's positions and forced them to withdraw in North Korea. During the withdrawal, U.S. forces were under constant heavy enemy pressure and were hampered by icy roads and heavy equipment. Shaw was reported missing following an engagement which last through the night, on Dec. 3, 1950. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Shaw's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

--**Army Pfc. Walter W. Green**, captured and killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1280202/soldier> -captured-in-the-korean-war-accounted-for-green/

In November 1950, Green was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, participating in combat actions against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the vicinity of Unsan, North Korea. Green was reported missing in action as of Nov. 2, 1950 when he could not be accounted for by his unit.

Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Green's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Master Sgt. Finley J. Davis**, captured and killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1280223/soldier-captured-during-the-korean-war-accounted-for-davis-f/>

In late 1950, Davis was a member of Company D, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, when his unit was fighting off persistent Chinese attacks in the Ch'ongch'on River area in northwest North Korea. The battle began on Nov. 25, 1950, when the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) initiated an offensive along the 8th Army front. All 8th Army units were ordered to withdraw on November 29. Davis' battalion was assigned to provide security for the division. The unit was attacked again by the CPVF and Davis was reported missing in action as of Dec. 1, 1950. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Davis' name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Pfc. Felipe A. Champion**, who died in captivity during the Korean War, has now been accounted for. <http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1282700/soldier>

On Feb. 12, 1951, Champion was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, when he was reported missing in action following a battle with the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in an area known as the Central Corridor, South Korea. After CPVF units withdrew north beyond Hongch'on in early March, American units began moving forward and found war dead, however Champion's remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending; a formal notification will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

Champion's name is recorded on the Walls of the Missing at an American Battle Monuments Commission site along with the others who are missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Max E. Harris**, 21, whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Aug. 27 in his hometown of Monticello, Ind. In late November 1950, Harris was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces east of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. It would be later learned that Harris had been captured, but died while en route to a POW camp. [Read about Harris.](#)

- 15. Korean War/Cold War Annual Government Briefings:** The following is a short summary of the subject briefings which took place in Arlington, Virginia at the Renaissance Capitol View Hotel from Thursday-Friday (Aug 11-12) last week. Attached is a copy of the agenda for the briefings. The meeting was open to all family members of the unaccounted-for from the Korean War and the Cold War. I thought the attendance this year was better than last year. Nearly all the seats were filled in the ballroom where the briefings took place. The attendance statistics are not yet available from DPAA. KWVA Executive Director, Jim Fisher, was present for the briefings as well as, Rick Dean, of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation. Rick and his staff had a table at the hotel outside the meeting room.

Here are a few key takeaways from last week's meeting. First, Fern Sumpter-Winbush is still the acting Director of DPAA. The new director has not yet been named by the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. The position of director has been vacant for over a year since former Director, Mike Linnington, resigned

and took over the Wound Warrior Program in Florida. As you may know, another director was selected earlier in the year, but he resigned before he was appointed so DoD had to restart the hiring process.

Second, on August 9, a lawsuit against the U.S. government was announced by several POW/MIA activists to compel the declassification of records from the Korean War and Cold War regarding POW/MIA service members. Attached for your information is a news release on the lawsuit. The news release is a private news release and is not from the U.S. government. The lawsuit was not addressed by any of the speakers at the annual government meetings. Despite the lawsuit announcement, I observed that the atmosphere at the annual briefings was friendly and relaxed.

Third, DPAA announced that in 2016 DPAA had the best year ever for identifying and accounting for the remains of 56 Korean War servicemen. For 2017, DPAA announced it has identified and accounted-for the remains of 32 Korean War servicemen to date and is on track to break the record they set in 2016. Most of the Korean War remains accounted-for come from the K208 group, Punchbowl disinterments, and the Joint Recovery Activities between 1996 and 2005. DPAA recently accounted-for one KW U.S. serviceman whose remains were recovered from the Republic of Korea. Since 1982, the remains of only 21 U.S. servicemen have been recovered in the republic of Korea and only 13 of those have been identified and accounted-for to date.

Fourth, attached is a fact sheet on Progress on Korean War personnel accounting dated August 1, 2017. However, as of August 16, 2017, the number of unaccounted-for has been reduced to 7732. Identifications are taking place nearly every week. This is good news, but it is important to note that most the remains identified this year have been in Hawaii for some time. Remains recovery operations in North Korea have been suspended since May 2005 and no additional remains have been received from North Korea since 2007, when a U.S. Delegation to North Korea headed by former Governor Richardson and former Secretary of the VA, Anthony Principi, received 6 boxes of remains. Six of those remains repatriated to the U.S. in 2007 have been identified and accounted for.

Fifth, given the current state of current relations between the United States and North Korea, the chance for resuming remains recovery operations in North Korea anytime soon is not likely, but DPAA says that are ready to resume remains recovery operations in North Korea if the opportunity presents itself. Finally, the DPAA laboratory and the Armed Forces DNA Laboratory (AFDIL) briefed at the meeting on current developments on accounting for the remains of Korean War Servicemen. DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Laboratory are making steady progress on advancing DNA technology and the use of chest X-rays and other techniques to identify the remains of Korean War servicemen. DPAA is making steady progress on this endeavor and the personnel accounting results reflect the progress. As a reminder, there are still approximately 5300 remains of U.S. servicemen in North Korea and no progress is currently being made in recovering those remains and repatriating them back to the U.S. so they can eventually be identified and returned to their families.

Bruce Harder

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KWVA POW/MIA Coordinator -- 540-659-0252

## **16. DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY FIELD OPERATIONS SUMMARY AUGUST 2017**

Summary: Keeping the families of our missing and veterans informed is a primary objective of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's (DPAA) mission. Towards that end, this Field Operations Summary is intended to provide an overview of past and future efforts to account for our missing.

Overview: As of July 31, 2017, there were 140 personnel deployed in support of operations around the world. Please note that the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy or the Secretary of Defense will announce when a selection is made for the new Director.

The Agency is preparing to host the Annual Korean/Cold War annual meeting August 10-11 and we look forward to updating the families on the Agency's progress and key initiatives that will enable us to better account for our nation's missing and communicate with their family members.

The majority of our identifications last year came from the unilateral turnover from North Korean known as K-208. Korean War cases have the priority for disinterment operations. As disinterment packets are approved and permits are granted, these cases become the priority for our bi-weekly disinterment operations in the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii. Vietnam War recovery missions will continue to be the Agency's main operational focus for the remainder of FY17.

FY 18-19 Operations Plan (OPLAN) was approved in June 2017. Our priority for field operations in FY18 continues to be Vietnam War losses. The Deputy Director will attend technical consultative talks in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos this month. Asia-Pacific Region: The Joint Field Activity (JFA) to Vietnam scheduled for 4th Quarter will not be reduced and is back to a standard size JFA. Preparations are also ongoing for the upcoming Consultations in Southeast Asia in August.

- Operations in Last 30 Days: o Philippines, (via University of Illinois, Chicago, DPAA partner)

- o Tarawa, (via History Flight Group, DPAA partner)

- o Tarawa, Field Forensic Review

- o Solomon Islands, 1xIT

- o China, 1xIT

- o Laos, 1xIT

- Upcoming Operations:

- o Tarawa, Field Forensic Review

- o Vietnam, 2xIT/4xRT, 2xVietnamese Recovery Teams (RT)/1x Vietnamese Underwater Recovery Team (URT)

- o Japan, 1xIT

- o Papua New Guinea, 1xRIT

- Pending Disinterment Operations

- o Punchbowl (Hawaii): 16 scheduled per month Europe-Mediterranean Region: The majority of field operations for the Europe-Mediterranean (Eur-Med) region begin in 4th Quarter. In the Eur-Med region DPAA has two organic recoveries in the field with four organic investigations occurring in this month and September. DPAA is also executing four partner investigations and recoveries with an

additional two planned through this month in the Eur-Med region. This teaming approach has positively increased capacity while minimizing organic costs allowing us to accomplish a far greater number of missions this FY.

- Operations in Last 30 Days: o Croatia, 1xURT (via Woods Hole, DPAA partner) o Austria, 1xRT (via University of New Orleans, DPAA partner) o Austria, 1xRT (via University of Maryland, DPAA partner) o Italy, 1xIT (via Archaeological & Historical Conservancy, DPAA partner) o Italy, 1xIT (via Coastal Research Vessel Leonardo, DPAA partner) o Moldova (Transnistria)/Ukraine, 1xIT o Bulgaria, 1xRT o Slovenia, 1xIT
- Upcoming Operations: o France, 1xRT (via University of Wisconsin, DPAA partner) o Italy, 1xIT (via East Carolina University, DPAA partner) o Germany, 1xIT/1xUIT o France, 1xIT o Austria, 1xIT
- U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) o Technical Talks will occur in Washington D.C. August 8-9.
- Pending Disinterment Operations

o Three (3) scheduled for American Battle Monuments Commission Cemeteries (1 each in Epinal, Henri-Chapelle, and Lorraine). Eight (8) disinterment's are approved, with seven (7) from Ardennes tentatively scheduled for September. Scientific Analysis: Lab operations are back up to full capacity with the new Medical Examiner on board. Going into 4th Quarter the lab staff will surge its operations in order to accomplish the Agency's identification goals.

Statistics: 2017 FY Identifications to July 31, 2017:

Total = 110 (93 new identifications and 17 identifications of additional remains for individuals previously accounted-for) o

o WWII = 75 (64 new identifications; 11 identifications of additional remains for individuals previously accounted-for)

o Korean War = 22 (22 new identifications)

o Cold War = 0

o Vietnam War = 13 (7 new identifications)

We have also posted this field summary at

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1283115/field-operations-summary-august-2017/>

If you have any questions please contact Johnie Webb at [johnie.e.webb.cov@mail.mil](mailto:johnie.e.webb.cov@mail.mil) or Mike Fowler at [michael.g.fowler2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:michael.g.fowler2.civ@mail.mil).

**17. 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/>.

## **18. SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT SAYS HIS NATION CAN'T RELY ONLY ON UNITED STATES FOR SECURITY**

SEOUL, South Korea — In vowing to prevent a new war on the divided peninsula, President Moon Jae-in said Tuesday that South Korea needs to do more to ensure its security.

The liberal leader, who took office on May 10 in a snap election, stressed that Seoul will work “very closely” with its longstanding U.S. ally to resolve the growing threat from North Korea.

“Still, we cannot rely only on our ally for our security,” he said in a televised speech to mark the anniversary of

the country’s independence from Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

“When it comes to matters related to the Korean Peninsula, our country has to take the initiative in resolving them,” he said. “Without the consent of the Republic of Korea, no country can determine to take military action.” “The government will do all it can to prevent a war from breaking out,” he said. “No matter what twists and turns we undergo, the North Korean nuclear problem must be addressed in a peaceful manner.”

Moon insisted that position did not represent a break with the United States, which backed South Korea in the 1950-53 war against the communist-supported North.

The fighting ended with an armistice but not a peace treaty, leaving the rivals separated by the world’s most fortified border. The U.S. maintains about 28,500 servicemembers in the South and offers its ally as well as nearby Japan protection under its so-called nuclear umbrella.

But fissures have emerged as President Donald Trump hardened his rhetoric and North Korea demonstrated rapid progress in its nuclear weapons program. Fears that the U.S. may try to launch a pre-emptive attack or that threats may lead to accidental conflict have prompted calls for the South to step up development of its defenses. Moon, a 64-year-old former human rights lawyer, has ordered a vast array of military reforms.

He also asked Trump in a phone call earlier this month to support changing agreed-upon guidelines to allow the South to develop more powerful ballistic missiles. Seoul may develop missiles with a range of up to 500 miles and a payload of up to 1,100 pounds, according to a bilateral agreement.

Moon wants to expand the payload to about a ton, which would help efforts to destroy North Korean bunkers, the Yonhap News Agency has reported. He also has called for speeding up the long-delayed transfer of wartime operational control from the U.S. to the South Koreans. South Korea has about 625,000 regular troops who are vastly outnumbered by the 1.3 million-strong North Korean army. But while the numerical gap is wide, the South and the United States are believed to enjoy superior military technology, training and logistics. U.S. and South Korean military leaders stress the importance of interoperability between the two allies, underscored by the frequently cited slogans “ready to fight tonight” and “katchi kapsida,” Korean for “we go together.” Gen. Vincent Brooks, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, recently praised the South Koreans and said the two militaries were closer than ever. He pointed to the fact that many units are combined, with South Korean and U.S. troops working together.

“This is a very capable ally,” he said Monday during a joint press conference in Seoul with visiting Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“We have systems we have to work through like we would with any ally. This is someone who’s carrying their own defenses,” said Brooks, who also leads Combined Forces Command and United Nations Command.

## **19. STATUS OF KOREAN WAR MUSEUM:**

State Journal Register, Springfield, IL

By [Tim Landis](#)

Korean War veteran Jim McCrocklin says he isn't so much concerned about the return of his wartime footlocker and other donations to the defunct Korean National War Museum as he is about seeing the testament to the Forgotten War survive in some fashion.

The 86-year-old Springfield resident, who served as Army infantry in Korea from 1951 to 1952, said he has heard little since operators of the museum on Old Capitol Plaza locked the doors on July 29, leaving exhibits behind and apparently relocating others.

In addition to his footlocker, McCrocklin said he donated a uniform, dress shoes, socks and other items shortly before the museum opened at the Springfield location in 2009.

"Don't get me wrong," said McCrocklin. "I don't really want them back. I donated for a cause. People donated a lot of money. It's the 'Forgotten War' and forgotten guys. I really don't want to see this fall by the wayside."

Just what became of museum exhibits remains unclear, including to Korean War veterans groups. The Illinois Attorney General's Office is investigating the abrupt shutdown and what became of donations. The Korean War National Museum, based in Chicago, voluntarily dissolved effective Aug. 4, according to corporate registration records at the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, meaning the group can no longer raise money in Illinois.

A New Jersey-based charity watchdog group this week issued a nationwide "high concern" advisory on the organization after The State Journal-Register reported on more than \$586,000 in museum financial losses from 2010 to 2015.

"The concerns raised about organizational legitimacy and/or federal tax law compliance are serious both in nature and scope," said the advisory from Charity Navigator.

The museum website and Facebook page have been taken down, and repeated phone and email messages left at the Springfield and Chicago offices for the museum have not been returned since the closing.

Secretary of State spokesman Dave Druker said suspension of corporate registration requires only a notice from the company or not-for-profit.

"It's fairly standard for an organization that's going out of business," said Druker.

The Illinois Attorney General's Office also suspended the museum's not-for-profit registration after the group failed to file a 2016 financial disclosure.

According to the last disclosure filed with the state, the museum lost money all but one year from 2010 to 2015, despite reporting revenue of more than \$7 million. The museum reported spending more than \$245,000 on direct mail solicitation and professional fundraising in 2015, as well as more than \$204,000 on salaries and executive compensation.

There have been no outward signs of work at the museum since the abrupt closing July 29 and Korean War veterans organizations say they have had little success in tracking the fate of exhibits that ranged from weapons to a library of Korean War history.

"It's unfortunate," said Carl Greenwood, president of the Illinois Korean Memorial Association. The group, which is unrelated to the museum, was instrumental in creation of the Korean War Memorial dedicated in 1996 at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield.

He questioned how little there was to show for the millions reportedly raised by the museum, by pointing out \$1.6 million was raised to build the Korean War Memorial, including \$500,000 in donated labor, design work and materials.

“It was all volunteer. Every donation went to the memorial,” said Greenwood.

The Illinois Korean Memorial Association was never involved with the museum, said Greenwood, though at one point he loaned the museum a podium for special events.

“When I heard they were going out of business, I got my podium back,” said Greenwood.

## **20. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RECOGNIZE AGENT ORANGE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES FOR KOREAN DMZ VETERANS :**

Army machine gunner Garfield Harper Jr. awoke one night to the smell of ammonia. He was inside the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea at the time but had no idea what caused the odor or who was responsible for it. It was the highly toxic defoliant Agent Orange, which was sprayed to kill vegetation so the enemy could not hide there years after the Korean War cease fire. Harper developed a serious skin disorder decades after his three years of military service, but it took him many more years to discover and then prove a disability case connected to his Agent Orange exposure in and near the DMZ in 1967.

Rep. Thomas MacArthur, R-N.J., held a news conference Tuesday at an American Legion post in Pemberton to highlight his introduction of a congressional bill requiring the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize Agent Orange-connected disabilities for Korean DMZ veterans like Harper who served before April 1968. Veterans Affairs "knew there was earlier exposure and we've tried to get this changed administratively but couldn't, so we introduced legislation to do what the VA could have and should have done," MacArthur said amid a crowd of several dozen Korean War and other veterans at American Legion Post 294, including state VFW and legion officials. "We think of Agent Orange mostly in Vietnam, but it was used to clean the Korean DMZ," he added, alluding to its use during the Vietnam War from the late 1960s to the early 1970s. "This bill like many bills started with a story — the story of Garfield — and his story is the story of a lot of veterans."

Specifically, the Fairness for Korean DMZ Veterans Act would do the following:

- Expand the current time frame of April 1, 1968 to Aug. 3, 1971 for eligibility for disability compensation for veterans who served at or near the Korean DMZ and are suffering from herbicide-related conditions.
- Change the eligibility date back to Sept. 1, 1967 — seven months earlier than current rules — for veterans to qualify for a health care disability from herbicide exposure.
- Establish the presumption of exposure for the earlier time frame, eliminating a lengthy appeal process and the need for the veteran to provide proof of exposure.
- Affect an estimated 1,000 to 1,500 current veterans who would have served there during those seven months. Harper and fellow Korean DMZ veteran Eugene Clarke of Reading, Connecticut, spoke at the news conference. They also were meeting face-to-face for the first time after nearly two years of telephone conversations about their Agent Orange exposure and Army service with the 7th Infantry Division — Harper in the 32nd Regiment and Clarke in the 31st. "This

bill means a lot to me and I hope it succeeds to help DMZ veterans who have illnesses right now that they didn't know where they came from," said the 69-year-old Harper, adding the "government should step up to the plate and take care of you."

He said the VA first told him there were no U.S. troops in the DMZ in 1967. "I told them that wasn't true," recalled Harper, a retired Teamster.

He appealed to the VA for a service-connected disability for a skin disorder that has attacked much of his body and was granted it in 2013. Clarke, however, is still awaiting a VA decision on his appeal for disability because he suffers from diabetes — one of a list of other Agent Orange side effects.

Other health problems associated with exposure include prostate cancer and heart disease, according to the VA. "God bless the congressman," Clarke told the gathering in thanking MacArthur, later calling the bill "the best thing since sliced bread."

Clarke, a retired Wall Street stockbroker, said he spent only one month in 1967 in the DMZ but was in South Korea longer than that. The VA approved its 1968-1971 dates because U.S. troops were using the spray to kill vegetation, but MacArthur said troops were exposed to it earlier because South Korean soldiers had been testing its use in the DMZ.

The U.S. led a coalition force under the banner of the United Nations inside the South Korean side of the DMZ for many years after the Korean War ended with a ceasefire in 1953 but without a peace treaty, but today only South Koreans patrol the southern portion.

MacArthur's bill has the support of the state and national commanders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Letters from the national commanders were read at the news conference.

"We want to thank the congressman for doing what is right for our veterans," state VFW commander Carey Pritchett said at the event.

Charles Schmidt, National American Legion commander, said veterans who served the nation honorably "should never be denied assistance when returning home from injuries sustained while fighting for this country."

While the VA does not recognize herbicide exposure in the DMZ prior to 1968, MacArthur said ironically it does recognize a related disability of children whose fathers served in or near the zone and who contracted spina bifida, a birth defect linked to Agent Orange exposure.

The congressman vowed to see the bill through the process until he gets justice for these veterans.

"It's just insane we can't get this through the bureaucracy. We sent them there and we need to do the right thing by them."

## **21. KOREAN WAR VETERAN HONORS FALLEN BUDDY:**

**MONROE TWP.** — A Korean War veteran who came home has lived up to the U.S. Marine Corps motto even for a schoolmate in the Army who never came home from the same war.

For 21 years, Ralph Delaney has been Semper Fidelis — Latin for "Always Faithful" — in his quest to help identify and bring home the remains of a fellow Glassboro High School graduate and veteran who was captured by North Korea during the Korean War and died in captivity as a POW 66 years ago this month.

And now that the remains of the 1949 Glassboro graduate, Army Pfc. Walter F. Piper, were conclusively identified in April. Delaney had coordinated the arrangements because Piper had no remaining immediate family members that could be found. Recent efforts, however, by the Gloucester County Veterans Office has led to the discovery of a Piper niece in Magnolia and two other nieces.

The soldier's body will be flown to Philadelphia International Airport a few days before his burial with full military honors at the Gloucester County Veterans Memorial Park in Williamstown.

"I never expected to get that phone call that he was found and identified, but I pursued this because I went to school with his younger brother Joe and had met Walter through school," said the 84-year-old Delaney, who graduated in 1951 and lives in Williamstown where the Pipers also resided.

"It will be a relief to finally have this come to an end. I just want him to have a proper burial and I had to decide where, so I'm bringing him home here even though he could have been buried at the Punch Bowl in Hawaii or in Arlington National Cemetery."

Delaney's commitment began in 1996 when he visited the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., noticed there was no picture of Piper in the electronic honor roll of veterans of the war and visited Piper's elderly mother back home to get one.

Piper originally was listed as missing in action on Feb. 13, 1951, but in 1953 the Communists notified the Army that he had died in their custody.

Lt. Kristen Duus, a defense department spokeswoman for the POW/MIA Accounting Office in Washington, D.C., said in 1954 North Korea sent to Japan unknown and commingled remains of what were purported to be 500 bodies of U.S. servicemen in 208 caskets. In 1991, another 11 caskets were received.

In recent decades all the bones were stored in Hawaii, but advances in DNA testing in more recent years made identification possible at an Army forensic lab at Pearl Harbor, where remains of unknown World War II and Korean War servicemen continue to be identified.



Duus said Piper's bones were found in boxes in both shipments from North Korea but were not officially identified until April because it took much time to find and identify all the bones and to complete a full report on Piper's POW/MIA case.

Walter F. Piper is seen in his Glassboro High School yearbook photo in 1949. He was captured and died a POW during the Korean War in 1951 but was not conclusively identified until April. Now his remains are coming home.

If it had not been for Delaney, Piper never would have been identified. Delaney asked Piper's mother Alice to give a DNA sample, but she revealed she was a stepmother, so her DNA could never be a match. His biological mother had died when he was a child and his father and two of Pipers' brothers already had died. Alice Piper died in 2003.

So Delaney tracked down Piper's oldest and only living brother Charles, who had been estranged from the family for years but was living in Hurffville. Charles gladly gave a DNA sample to the defense department, the veteran said. Charles has since passed away.

"I was blown away that they actually found most of Walter's body skeleton," said Delaney, who served later than Piper during the Korean War as a platoon sergeant with the 1st battalion of the 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

A quiet, unassuming man who doesn't dwell on battle details, Delaney was still in South Korea in 1953 when the cease-fire was announced. He described the fighting conditions as brutal because of very hot summers and extremely cold winters with snow and lamented that the troops were poorly trained.

The 20-year-old Piper, an infantryman in Headquarters Company of the 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was in combat at the Battle of Hoengsong, South Korea, when the 38th came under heavy artillery fire from the Chinese.

South Korean soldiers at the battlefield retreated, streaming past their allied American forces behind them, thereby directly exposing the American flank to the enemy. In one of the worst defeats of the war, Piper and fellow Army soldiers were captured as they, too, were forced to retreat southward.

Piper had worked on his father's farm and then in a Philadelphia clothing factory before enlisting in the Army in 1950.

"Walt is a quiet boy with lots of girlfriends. He is a hard worker in everything he undertakes. He is a future chef. Boy, will he make a swell husband!" was his description in the 1949 high school yearbook.

A month ago, an Army sergeant from a repatriation office visited Delaney and presented him with a 100 plus-page Defense Department report on Piper's case since 1951. The POW's hometown had been listed as Philadelphia because his fiancée lived there.

Another American POW later told the military in a signed statement after his release in 1954 that Piper had been in a prison camp in North Korea, died on June 18, 1951, in the Bean Mining Camp and was buried nearby, according to the report.

The report also said Piper died of gangrene from a broken ankle and from malnutrition. After his capture he was marched more than 200 miles from South Korea to the Suan POW Camp in North Korea and later was moved to the mining camp.

Delaney also has received Piper's posthumous war medals from the Army, including the prestigious combat infantry badge, POW Medal and a Purple Heart for war injuries.

He had the honors mounted in a shadow box to be displayed during the June 17 visitation for Piper at the Farnelli Funeral Home, 504 N. Main St., Williamstown, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. prior to his burial.

Delaney said he plans to donate the medals to the county afterward.

In May, a sketch of Piper was added to the Gloucester County Memorial Wall of Heroes at the justice complex in Woodbury.

In Honolulu, Piper's name also is inscribed on the Courts of Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, commonly known as the Punchbowl.

Sherry Branda Bumm of Magnolia, the daughter of Piper's late sister Lillian, found out only Wednesday about the funeral of her uncle, who died before she was born. She said she knew he had died in the war but never knew he was a POW.

"I'm glad I got the call from someone who found me in time for June 17," the 60-year-old niece said.

"We are all very honored that the Army and Mr. Delaney pursued this and that the funeral parlor and veterans organizations have helped in the effort to give him a proper burial so he can rest in peace."

Some Glassboro High School staff and school board members plan to attend the funeral for a school alumnus who gave all for his country.

"You can't listen to Ralph's story of the past 21 years and not want to attend," said high school principal Danielle Sneathen.

## 22. KOREAN VETS MARK CEASEFIRE WITH MEMORIES, THOUGHTS ON N. KOREA



This past July, Korean War veterans marked the 64th anniversary of the Korean War cease-fire. "There was no joyful celebration at least where we were. Just plain relief. Was the war really over?" remembered Korean War veteran Andy Jackson. South Jersey residents Andy Jackson and Stanley Levin fought what has been called the Forgotten War, but their 1950s Korean War experience was hardly forgettable.

The mountain terrain was rugged and the North Korean enemy brutal, but the soldiers most remember the cold. And the cold. And the cold.

A 1953 cease-fire put an end to hostilities while Jackson and Levin were still there, but it has become a near permanent stalemate that has never ended the three-year war.

This week brings not only Thursday's 64th anniversary of the cease-fire between North and South Korea and their allies but two new developments from Washington, D.C., against North Korea.

The U.S. House of Representatives strengthened economic and financial sanctions against that country because of leader Kim Jong-un's aggressive behavior in his nuclear and missile threats against the U.S. and South Korea. (A separate and stiffer sanction bill against Russia and Iran also passed the House.)

The Federal Register published the first written U.S. State department policy banning Americans from traveling to North Korea due to the risk of "long-term detention."

Announced last week, the ban will take effect 30 days later and comes after the recent death of U.S. college student Otto Warmbier, who was detained while on a trip to North Korea for allegedly taking down a hotel poster. He was jailed, convicted and imprisoned for a year, but sent home this June in a coma.

War veterans and South Koreans living in South Jersey agreed with the pending travel ban while a Rutgers history professor said he has mixed feelings on the new restriction. They were more split on the issue of sanctions and their effectiveness.

Fred Connolly of Turnersville shows his dress uniform portrait taken during the war. He is wearing the green cotton summer work uniform that was the only one issued to soldiers in the war and will attend a 64th anniversary commemoration Thursday in Atlantic City of the 1953 Korean War cease-fire that remains in effect. (Photo: Jose F. Moreno/Staff Photographer)

However, all concede the issues are so complex there is no easy or foolproof solution to resolving U.S.-North Korean relations.

Levin said Warmbier's case is a perfect example of how North Koreans take advantage of naïve Americans who travel there.

"Knowing firsthand the brutality of the North Koreans, there is no benefit of any kind for an American to visit brutal North Korea. Only their personal tragedy would be the result and another crisis between them and America would arise," said the 85-year-old Levin of Maple Shade, who served as an Army infantryman during the war.

"Depending on which side of the mountain you were on, the temperature would range between 40 degrees below zero on the shady side and 20 degrees below zero if you were on the opposite sunny side — that is, of course, if the sun did ever shine.

"Frostbite often claimed as many casualties as battle wounds. My friend was bayoneted in the neck. The bitter cold froze the flow of blood. Otherwise he would have bled to death."



Retired Korean War Army veterans Andy Jackson of Cherry Hill (center), Fred Connolly of Turnersville (left in Korean War work uniform) and Carl Letizia of Marlton, a Navy and Marine

Corps veteran, gather at Jackson's home. They discussed their views on trade sanctions against North Korea and the pending travel ban. (Photo: Jose F. Moreno/Staff Photographer)

When the Korean War cease-fire came on July 27, 1953, creating a neutral DeMilitarized Zone (DMZ), now retired Army captain Jackson was a platoon leader who had just fought a daylong battle against constant artillery fire from the Chinese, a North Korean ally, in the mountain area known as the Punchbowl. He narrowly escaped two bullets fired by a sniper.

"Around 10 p.m. all the firing stopped. We were puzzled at what was going to happen next. The next morning the silence was weird," Jackson recalled. "A few hours later (on July 28), on the opposite ridge line, it looked like about 10,000 Chinese soldiers stood up from their trenches and bunkers and sang and shouted. Some danced. We did not move from our bunker or trenches just in case this was some kind of trick."

He said soon afterward U.S. troops found out about the cease-fire.

"There was no joyful celebration at least where we were. Just plain relief. Was the war really over?" remembered Jackson, who is president of Thomas Daly Jr. Chapter 54 of the Korean War Service Veterans Association.

"One thing I don't want to see now is American boots on the ground going into those damn rotten mountains we went through," said Jackson.

Army war veteran Fred Connolly of Turnersville, a foot soldier at the Chosin Reservoir retreat with the 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and one of only 385 of the regiment's 3,200 men who were not killed or taken prisoner, said it's hard to predict what Kim Jong-un might do with his nuclear capabilities.

"I think he is just blowing smoke to get recognition as a leader," added Connolly.

On Thursday, chapter leader Jackson and Connolly plan to attend the annual cease-fire commemoration at the state's Korean War Memorial in Brighton Park at the boardwalk in Atlantic City and at the nearby amphitheater. Connolly will play taps on his bugle.

"There should have been a travel ban already. There is nothing in North Korea that anyone would want to see; why would anyone want to go there?" asked Jackson.

Hong Choi, a pathologist and retired elder at the First Korean United Methodist Church in Cherry Hill who endured wartime starvation, bombings and North Korean occupation as a boy in Seoul, South Korea, said the ban would eliminate possible imprisonment of Americans.

However, he said he does not know if sanctions will solve the other problems North Korea is causing but hopes it is not too late for a peaceful solution.

Rutgers University-Camden assistant professor Nick Kapur said he has no good answer to a very difficult situation.

He views a diplomatic solution through negotiation as a preferable approach, but added, "It does not appear the Trump administration is interested in diplomacy in this or other situations and is more interested in pressuring China to force North Korea to give up its nuclear program, but China seems unwilling," he said.

"Trump does not seem to have a basic understanding of the history and his view is not based on research. And even without the nuke, North Korea has enough conventional military to devastate Seoul."

Retired Army captain Andy Jackson of Cherry Hill, seen with his military medals, was a platoon leader who had just fought a battle against constant artillery fire from the Chinese when the cease-fire was declared. (Photo: Jose F. Moreno/Staff Photographer)

As for the travel ban, Kapur's feelings are mixed. "There are always risks, but we are a free country and people should be able to go, but from a government perspective, if you get in trouble, it becomes a U.S. government issue, so maybe it's better to say you can't."

Rutgers University-New Brunswick psychology student Paula Chung, 21, of Cherry Hill also favors the travel ban but has her own take on the threats coming out of North Korea.

"From our generation point of view, because he (Jong-un) is always making threats all the time, we think it is mostly a bluff," she concluded.

## **23. DISABILITY COMPENSATION DECISION READY CLAIMS** **DECISION READY CLAIM OVERVIEW**

The Decision Ready Claim (DRC) initiative is a claims submission option through an accredited Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representative which allows VA to complete your claim within 30 days of submission. Under the DRC initiative, your accredited representative will assist you in ensuring all supporting evidence (e.g. medical exams) is included with your claim at the time of submission.

### **WHAT TYPES OF DISABILITY CLAIMS ARE ELIGIBLE THROUGH THE DRC INITIATIVE?**

At this time, the DRC initiative can be used to submit disability compensation claims for increase. A compensation claim for increase is a claim for a disability that the Veteran is currently service connected for and is requesting an increase to the current disability evaluation due to the condition worsening.

### **HOW CAN I FILE MY CLAIM UNDER THE DRC INITIATIVE?**

In order to file a disability compensation claim under the DRC initiative, you need to appoint an accredited VSO representative. Your accredited representative plays an essential role in determining whether DRC is right for you.

If you don't have an accredited representative, you can appoint one online through [www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/vso-search) or visit your nearest VA regional benefit office for assistance. You can find the nearest location online through <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=3&isFlash=0>

**WHAT IS AN ACCREDITED VSO REPRESENTATIVE?** An accredited VSO representative is an individual who has undergone a formal application and training process, and is recognized by VA as a qualified advocate for Veterans. Many VSOs are private non-profit groups that advocate on behalf of Veterans, Servicemembers, dependents and survivors. Accredited representatives may also work for state or county government entities. VSOs provide their services free-of-charge, but they may request reimbursement for unusual expenses.

For More Information about the DRC initiative, call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000.

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA healthcare system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.

24.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM VETERAN AND MILITARY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER SERVICE CROSS REVIEW FOR THE KOREAN AND VIETNAM WARS**

All,

Section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 requires that the Military Departments conduct a review of Service Crosses (Distinguished Service Cross – Army; Navy Cross – Navy and USMC; Air Force Cross – Air Force) awarded to Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander veterans from the Korean and Vietnam Wars to determine if they warrant upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

Section 586 also requires that the Military Departments consult with veteran and military service organizations to assist in identifying Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Service Cross recipients from the Korean and Vietnam wars whose Service records indicate that they are Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander for inclusion in the review.

The review mandated by Section 586 includes only those individuals “whose service records identify them as an Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross during the Korean War or the Vietnam War.”

The Department is using the following definitions for the purpose of this review:

**Asian American:** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. (Ref: Fed Reg, Vol 62, No. 210, 30 Oct 1997)

(NOTE: For the purpose of the Service Cross review directed by FY17 NDAA §586 the term “Asian American” also includes the countries of: Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar (Burma), Laos, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Borneo, Brunei, Afghanistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), and Papua New Guinea.

**Native Hawaiian:** Means any individual any of whose ancestors were natives of the area which consists of the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778 (Ref: 42 U.S.C. §2992c).

**Native American Pacific Islander:** Means an individual who is indigenous to a United States territory or possession located in the Pacific Ocean, and includes such individuals while residing in the United States (Ref: 42 U.S.C. §2992c). This includes: Guam, American Samoa, and Northern Mariana Islands.

The Department respectfully requests that each of your respective organizations look into this matter and identify any names of Service Cross recipients from the Korean or Vietnam wars who should be included in the review. Please provide the full name of any qualifying Service Cross recipient, along with any associated documents from the veteran’s Service record that indicates he/she was an Asian American or a Native American Pacific Islander, to their respective Military Service by March 1, 2018. Based on the information provided the respective Military Department will determine if the Service Cross recipient is eligible for inclusion in the review in accordance with Section 586 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. Contact for each respective Military Service is listed below. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

**Military Service Contact Address**

**Army** - Commander U.S. Army Human Resources Command Attn: AHRC-PDP-A 1600 Spearhead Division Ave., Dept 480 Ft. Knox, KY 40122-5408

**Navy** - Chief of Naval Operations (DNS-35) Navy Awards Office 2000 Navy Pentagon Washington, DC 20350-2000

**Air Force** - -Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DPSIDRA 550 C Street West JB San Antonio-Randolph, TX 78150

**Marine Corps** - Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch (MMMA) 2008 Elliott Road Quantico VA 22134-5100

SECTION. 586. REVIEW REGARDING AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO CERTAIN ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER WAR VETERANS.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of each military department shall review the service records of each Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander war veteran described in subsection (b) to determine whether that veteran should be awarded the Medal of Honor.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—The Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander war veterans whose service records are to be reviewed under subsection (a) are any former members of the Armed Forces whose service records identify them as an Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran who was awarded the Distinguished-Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross during the Korean War or the Vietnam War.

(c) CONSULTATIONS.—In carrying out the review under subsection (a), the Secretary of each military department shall consult with such veterans service organizations as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON REVIEW.—If the Secretary concerned determines, based upon the review under subsection (a) of the service records of any Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran, that the award of the Medal of Honor to that veteran is warranted, the Secretary shall submit to the President a recommendation that the President award the Medal of Honor to that veteran.

(e) AUTHORITY TO AWARD MEDAL OF HONOR.—A Medal of Honor may be awarded to an Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran in accordance with a recommendation of the Secretary concerned under subsection (d).

(f) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—No Medal of Honor may be awarded pursuant to subsection (e) until the Secretary of Defense submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives notice of the recommendations under subsection (d), including the name of each Asian American or Native American Pacific Islander war veteran recommended to be awarded a Medal of Honor and the rationale for such recommendation.

(g) WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.—An award of the Medal of Honor may be made under subsection (e) without regard to—

(1) section 3744, 6248, or 8744 of title 10, United States Code, as applicable; and

(2) any regulation or other administrative restriction on—

(A) the time for awarding the Medal of Honor; or

(B) the awarding of the Medal of Honor for service for which a Distinguished-Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross has been awarded.

(h) DEFINITION. —In this section, the term “Native American Pacific Islander” means a Native Hawaiian or Native American Pacific Islander, as those terms are defined in section 815 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992c).

## **25. Protect TRICARE Benefits for Retirees**

**Background:** Last year’s National Defense Authorization Act increased TRICARE costs for military retirees who enter the military after January 1, 2018, and their families. Current military retirees and their family members are exempt from these cost increases, but a proposal which was recently advanced by the Senate would remove this exemption. This proposal would result in higher TRICARE fees for military retirees, including pharmacy copayments, which are already three times higher than they were in 2011, and enrollment costs for certain plans, such as the new Select plan, would nearly triple. There is an inherent cost to fielding a professional, all-volunteer military, and the promise of a modest stipend immediately upon retirement and inexpensive health care are keys to retaining our best and brightest service members. The VFW needs your help in defeating this harmful proposal which would require military retirees to pay more for their earned health care.

**Take Action:** Contact your Senators and Representative to demand that they reject any proposal that would result in TRICARE fee increases for current beneficiaries, and let them know that veterans have paid for their benefits through blood, sweat and tears many times over.

After taking action, please consider posting about this Alert on social media.

## **26. ANNUAL CONSENT FOR AUTOMATIC PRESCRIPTION REFILLS BEGINS SEPT. 1**

Beginning Sept. 1, 2017, [Express Scripts](#) will need annual consent from patients who want to receive automatic refills of their maintenance medications enrolled in [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#). This means that just before one of your prescriptions runs out of refills, Express Scripts will reach out to you to know if you would like your doctor to be contacted to renew the prescription and if you'd like to continue in the [Automatic Refill program](#). If not, Express Scripts will not refill your prescription.

“This new process gives beneficiaries more control over their medications and keeps the convenience of automatic refills,” said Amy Aldighere, Express Scripts Sr. Director – DoD Program Management. “It also makes it easier to opt out of the Auto Refill program and helps to prevent beneficiaries from receiving medications that they no longer need or shouldn’t receive.”

**What to Expect:** When the last refill of a medication enrolled in the Automatic Refill program ships, Express Scripts will reach out to you by telephone and/or email (depending on the preference you indicated) and ask the following:

- Would you like Express Scripts to reach out to your doctor for a new prescription?
- Do you want to keep your medication enrolled in the Auto Refill program?

**How to Respond:** Express Scripts will not re-enroll your medication unless they hear from you. You have several ways to respond:

- Online at [Express-Scripts.com/TRICARE](http://Express-Scripts.com/TRICARE)
- Via the automated phone call from Express Scripts
- By calling an Express Scripts Patient Care Advocate (PCA) at 1-877-363-1303

If Express Scripts does not receive your consent within 10 days of reaching out to you, they will remove your medication from the Auto Refill program. However, re-enrolling is simple. You can re-enroll your medication at any time online, or through a PCA.

For more information or if you have questions, go to the [Express Scripts website](#). You can also call Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to speak with a PCA

## **27. ATTENTION ALL RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS,**

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis. The new addresses are:

### **Retired Pay:**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

### **Annuitant Pay:**

Defense Finance and Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

## 28. VA BENEFITS ARE NOT JUST FOR VETERANS.



VA benefits are not just for Veterans. Spouses, children and parents of Veterans may be eligible for various VA benefits too. Jennifer, a wife of a disabled Marine Corps Veteran, utilized VA health care and education benefits for her entire family.

“My experience, from my point of view, has been wonderful. Everybody’s been supportive and I’m grateful,” she says. “It may be a little bit of work, but it’s ultimately worth it in the end.” Not only does her husband use VA health care for help with his disabilities, Jennifer and her children have health care coverage under VA’s CHAMPVA program.

Jennifer also used the [Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program](#) to earn her master’s degree and plans to use this benefit for her children as well.

Spouses, children and parents of Veterans may also be eligible to receive benefits for:

[Disability compensation](#)

[Employment services](#)

[Home loans](#)

[Life insurance](#)

[Pension](#)

[Memorial benefits](#)

Visit [Explore.VA.gov](https://www.va.gov/explore) or click the button below to find out more information about all VA benefits.

## 14.

### KWVA PRAYER LIST

- a. George Bruzgis - Bedridden – Possibility of losing his leg

- b. Mrs. Virginia Edwards (Sonny's wife) – Cancer has returned. Intense Chemo Therapy
- c. Jeff Brodeur – Son's surgery on legs
- d. COL Bill Weber – Fitting of new prosthesis
- e. Our Country (USA)
- f. Our Countries Leadership
- g. Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces
- h. Situation in the Korean Peninsular

## **2017 Honor Flight Tour Schedule**

Tour Date	Honor Flight Chapter	More Information
9/2/2017	Honor Flight Dayton (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/7/2017	Kansas Honor Flight (Kansas)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/8/2017	Honor Flight Bay Area (California)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/9/2017	Honor Flight Columbus (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/9/2017	Lone Eagle (Various States)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/9/2017	Space Coast Honor Flight (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/9/2017	Indy Honor Flight (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/11/2017	Never Forgotten Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/12/2017	Honor Flight West Central Florida (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/16/2017	Honor Flight Kentucky (Kentucky)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/16/2017	Greater St. Louis Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/16/2017	Badger Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/16/2017	Brushy Creek Area Honor Flight (Iowa)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/18/2017	Greater Lafayette Honor Flight (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/18/2017	Honor Flight Northern Colorado (Colorado)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/18/2017	Eastern Iowa Honor Flight (Iowa)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/20/2017	Old Glory Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/20/2017	Flag City Honor Flight (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/21/2017	Kansas Honor Flight (Kansas)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/23/2017	Franklin County Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub

9/23/2017	Collier County Honor Flight (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/23/2017	Honor Flight Huntington (WestVirginia)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/26/2017	Greater Peoria Honor Flight (Illinois)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/26/2017	Heartland Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/30/2017	Honor Flight Dayton (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/30/2017	Honor Flight Columbus (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/30/2017	Honor Flight Syracuse (NewYork)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
9/30/2017	Honor Flight Twin Cities (Minnesota)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
October		
10/7/2017	South Willamette Valley Honor Flight (Oregon)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/7/2017	Honor Flight Southland (California)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/7/2017	Badger Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/7/2017	Honor Flight Huntington (WestVirginia)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/9/2017	Never Forgotten Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/10/2017	Central Valley Honor Flight (California)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/13/2017	Honor Flight Bay Area (California)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Greater St. Louis Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Honor Flight Kentucky (Kentucky)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Franklin County Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Lone Eagle (Various States)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Space Coast Honor Flight (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/14/2017	Honor Flight Savannah (Georgia)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/18/2017	Old Glory Honor Flight (Wisconsin)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/18/2017	Eastern Iowa Honor Flight (Iowa)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/21/2017	Honor Flight Columbus (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/21/2017	Collier County Honor Flight (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/21/2017	Indy Honor Flight (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/21/2017	Honor Flight of Southern Indiana (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/23/2017	Greater Lafayette Honor Flight (Indiana)	Contact Honor Flight Hub

10/24/2017	Honor Flight Tri-State (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/24/2017	Honor Flight West Central Florida (Florida)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/24/2017	Honor Flight of the Ozarks (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
10/27/2017	Utah Honor Flight (Utah)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
November		
11/1/2017	Honor Flight of the Quad Cities (Illinois)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
11/4/2017	Honor Flight Dayton (Ohio)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
11/11/2017	Greater St. Louis Honor Flight (Missouri)	Contact Honor Flight Hub
11/11/2017	Lone Eagle (Various States)	Contact Honor Flight Hub



Contact Information  
Honor Flight, Inc.  
175 South Tuttle Road  
Springfield, OH 45505  
937-521-2400  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST  
Serving Our Veterans

Respectfully submitted,

*James R. Fisher*

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