



THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION, INC.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Washington, D.C.
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The following monthly update for December 2017 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

Happy New Year to all of our Korean War Veterans and Korean Defense Veterans and their families



- **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards – AS OF 12-28-17

New members this Month. 38
New members TYTD 540
Active members LYTD. 13,090
Active members TYTD. 12,591
Decrease. 499
Deceased comrades LYTD. 1263 Avg/Mo 105
Deceased comrades TYTD. 795. Avg/Mo. 66

- **THIS YEAR, LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST WITH VA CARE!**

What’s your New Year’s resolution? Whether you’re looking to lose a few pounds or become more active, VA may be able to help.

Woodi, an Army Veteran, turned to VA for help with her back pain. After going through several different therapies, her physical therapist recommended incorporating yoga into her routine.

“I thought, how can you ask someone with a bad back to do yoga?” Woodi says. “I had no idea that yoga is done in so many different ways and for people of all ages and all abilities.”

Veterans enrolled in VA health care not only have access to comprehensive medical benefits, but also exercise and movement services like Woodi's yoga class, weight loss programs, recreational therapies and much more. "The VA has made a huge difference in my life," Woodi says. "The yoga class has loosened my back up, taken away a lot of my pain, helped me to be able to move better, to have a better quality of life, to take less medication."

Take control of your health. Learn how to apply for VA health care by visiting [Explore.VA.gov](https://www.va.gov/explore) or clicking on the button below.

- **KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS PLACE WREATHS AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**



CEMETERY

A large number of volunteers placed wreaths on tombstones at Arlington National Cemetery. The annual event placed more than 245,000 wreaths placed at military grave sites on Saturday, December 16, 2017. The "Wreaths Across America" truck from Columbia Falls, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery, VA. The wreaths are manufactured at Columbia Falls, Maine. The tradition began when Maine wreath maker Morrial Worcester donated 5,000 wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery, VA. It is estimated that a total of 1.2 million wreaths were placed on military graves across the United States in over 1,238 Federal and State Veteran Cemeteries. *Submitted by Charles Pittsburgh Roe, member of KWVA.*

- **LOCATIONS OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS:** If you are looking for a VA Hospital or Medical Center near you, please click on to the attached site and each hospital and medical center is located under the state you line on.

<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp>

- **APPLICATIONS FOR NEW VETERANS ID DELAYED:** The high volume of applications for the new veterans ID card has caused VA to delay new applications. VA has established an email reminder system for veterans who have not been able to apply. Visit the [Vets.gov Veterans ID Card application website](https://www.vets.gov/veterans-id-card-application) if you are interested in applying. VA has not indicated how long veterans will wait before being able to submit new applications or how soon those who have already applied will receive their ID cards. Stay tuned to the Action Corps Weekly for updates.
- **MILLIONS UNAWARE OF NEW TRICARE COSTS:** A recent survey recently confirmed that potentially millions of military TRICARE beneficiaries are still unaware that in one month their health care program costs are about to increase. The survey was conducted between Oct. 26 and Nov. 8, with more than 11,800 responses tallied. Only 48 percent of respondents were aware of any TRICARE program changes, which take effect in the New Year. Thirty percent of respondents identified themselves as TRICARE Prime users, but only 12 percent reported being aware that Prime co-payments for military retirees were increasing. [TRICARE reports](#) 4.6 million beneficiaries in its Prime category, and 1.94 million using either TRICARE Standard or Extra. The changes were mandated by the fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act. Also beginning Jan. 1, TRICARE Select replaces TRICARE Standard and Extra, and with it comes a new flat-rate co-payment and enrollment fee. [Learn more here.](#)

- **VA ON-LINE INFORMATION SITES:**

- The digital 2017 Benefits Book is here: https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp
- The Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) has a BAS also has a summary of VA benefits available here: https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/benefits_summary_materials.asp
- Veteran Data Pocket Card: Attached and at the following link: <https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/pocketcards/fy2018q1.pdf>
- VA Cemetery Factsheet on Weekend Burial: https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA_Weekend_Burial_Program.pdf

- **EDUCATION INFORMATION:** All service members and veterans who want to use their GI Bill benefits to pursue their education goals should make use of VA’s GI Bill Comparison Tool, which allows you to compare different programs and institutions that accept the GI Bill. The GI Bill Comparison Tool provides information on the schools such as accreditation, student outcomes and whether the institution participates in veterans-specific programs. It also allows you to view up-to-date complaints from current and past students and provides an estimate of the benefits you would receive. Using this VA-provided tool helps you to make informed decisions about where to attend school, and hopefully avoid programs that offer little to no value.
- **COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA):** Based on the increase in the Consumer Price Index, there will be a 2.0 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for most retired pay and Survivor Benefit Plan annuities effective Dec. 1, 2017. Retirees will see the change in their Dec. 29, 2017 payment and annuitants in their Jan. 2, 2018 payment.

- **GET READY FOR TAX SEASON**



Tax season is a busy time. As you prepare for doing your taxes, here are some tools and resources we provide to make it easier for you.

The best way to prepare is to use myPay to get all of the information you need. Here are some helpful tips for using myPay, as well as for getting your IRS Form 1099R in other ways.

Get your 1099R and pay information 24/7 in myPay

The fastest and most secure way to obtain a copy of your 1099R is through myPay. Retirees and annuitants can log in to myPay, and print a 1099R from the comfort of their home. Instructions are at: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/manage/taxes/getting1099r/viamypay1099R>

If you cannot access your myPay account, here is how you can get access:

How to request a temporary password

- A. Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>
- B. Click “Forgot or Need a Password?”
- C. Enter your Social Security Number and click the “Yes” button on the bottom right.
- D. Choose “mail to my address of record with Military Retired” and click “Send me a Password.” Or, if you have a valid email address in myPay, you can have it emailed.

If you don’t receive the temporary password

You should receive your temporary password in 10 business days by mail or two hours by email. you don’t, you need to update your mailing address.

- **MIA Update:**

-- **Army Sgt. 1st Class Milton M. Beed**, captured during the Korean War, has now been accounted for.

<http://www.dpaa.mil/News-Stories/Recent-News-Stories/Article/1395465/soldier>

captured-during-world-war-ii-accounted-for-beed-m/

In February 1951, Beed was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division,

supporting Republic of Korea Army attacks against units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces (CPVF) in the village of Hoengsong, an area known as the Central Corridor in South Korea.

After enduring sustained enemy attacks, the American units withdrew to Wonju, South Korea. It was during this withdrawal that Beed was reported missing, as of Feb. 12, 1951. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.



Beed's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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. For more information about DPAA, visit www.dpaa.mil, find us on social media at www.facebook.com/dodpaa, or call 703-699-1420.

-- **Army Sgt. Kermit J. Lejeune**, 23, of Church Point, La., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Dec. 14 in his hometown. Lejeune was a member of Company K, 3rd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit engaged with Chinese forces in the vicinity of Unsan County, North Pyongan County, North Korea. Lejeune was reported missing in action on Nov. 28, 1950. Lejeune was later reported to have been captured and died in a North Korean POW camp in early 1951. [Read about Lejeune.](#)

- **Army Pfc. Albert E. Atkins**, 20, of Belvidere, N.J., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried Dec. 15 in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. Atkins was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. His unit attacked enemy forces near Mae-Bong, South Korea, on May 23, 1951, in an attempt to secure Hill 911. As the company prepared to assault the hill, Atkins and two other soldiers from his company were reported missing in action. [Read about Atkins.](#)

- **PREVIOUSLY MISSING KOREAN WAR VETERAN FINALLY LAID TO REST:** Sixty six years after Army Pfc. Albert E. Atkins went missing during the Korean War, he was finally laid to rest with military honors.

On May 23, 1951, Atkins was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, when his unit was attacking enemy forces near Mae-Bong, South Korea. The regiment's mission was to secure Hill 911. As the company prepared to assault the hill, Atkins and two other soldiers from his company were reported missing in action. On Sept. 17, 1966, two South Koreans provided information regarding three side-by-side graves in the vicinity of Kwandra-ri, South Korea. A U.S. Army Graves Registration team recovered the remains and sent them to the Central Identification Unit in Yokohama, Japan for analysis. Two of the remains were individually identified as members of Atkins' company, but the third set of remains, labeled X-6385, could not be identified and was interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu.

After a thorough historical and scientific analysis of information associated with remains X-6385 it was determined that the remains could likely be identified. After receipt of approval, the remains were disinterred from the NMCP on Nov. 1, 2005 and sent to the laboratory for analysis.

To identify Atkins' remains, scientists from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis, involving next-generation sequencing, which matched his family, as well as dental and anthropological analysis, which matched his records, and circumstantial evidence.

Today, 7,715 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously returned by North Korean officials or recovered from North Korea by American recovery teams. Atkins' name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, 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.



FLU SEASON IS HERE! VETERANS PROTECT YOURSELVES AND GET A NO COST FLU SHOT!

The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination at no cost. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.

Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: VAFLU

In, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record. The VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season.

MESSAGE FROM VA SECRETARY DAVID SHULKIN **VA ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2017**

Secretary Shulkin provided a year-end statement focused on VA accomplishments for 2017.

The text is below and there is a link here to see his accompanying video message:

<https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=3991>



Happy Holidays! 2017 has been a year of accomplishments for the Department of Veterans Affairs and this is a perfect time to reflect on, acknowledge, and thank all of those who have enabled our many accomplishments for Veterans during this past year. We owe so much to our Nation's leaders and others in and outside of government for supporting and enabling improvements to the ways in which we serve Veterans:

- First and foremost, let me express my gratitude to President Trump. His leadership and vision have driven and inspired VA to better care for Veterans and their families. Among his many supportive acts and leadership initiatives, he has signed 9 bills to improve our ability to serve Veterans, as well as one Executive Order and three Presidential Proclamations; he has personally participated in and led six events honoring Veterans, and he has kept their interests foremost in the minds of all Americans by mentioning their service and sacrifices in 25 of his public speeches. He was the driving force behind the White House Hotline for Veterans, which opened for 24-7 service in October and has served more than 16,000 callers.

- Vice President Pence has also been critical to every initiative involving Veterans. He personally led our Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington and demonstrated his concern for Veterans by supporting and attending Honor Flight ceremonies and events such as the Wounded Warrior bicycle ride.
- Thanks to all the Members of Congress for making 2017 a legislative success for Veterans. With the unwavering support and leadership of our VA committees, Congress supported and passed groundbreaking legislation on VA Accountability, Appeals Reform, the Forever GI Bill, Veterans Choice Improvements, and Personnel Improvements and Extension of Choice funding.
- Thanks also to my fellow Cabinet Secretaries and leaders of Administrations for their departments and agencies support:
 - Department of Defense: We are partnering on a new Electronic Medical Record and shared purchasing to better serve both Veterans and Service Members and best use taxpayer resources.
 - Housing and Urban Development: Together, VA and HUD helped house over 61,000 homeless Veterans last year alone.
 - Department of Energy: With DoE assistance, we've launched an important Veterans Brain Health Initiative and Big Data Super Computing to expand dramatically our research into Veterans' health.
 - Department of Labor: Working together, the unemployment rate for Veterans has dropped to 2.6%, the lowest in 17 years.
 - Department of Education: With DoE's support, VA helped enable more than 1 million Veterans to use the GI Bill in 2017.
 - Health and Human Services: Our collaborations have led 620,000 Veterans to participate in precision medicine initiatives, achieve a reduction of 36% in the use of opioids, and produce over 10,000 research papers that will help us better serve Veterans and all Americans.
 - Department of State: Thanks to DoS for coordinating the visits of dignitaries from 16 countries to the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - The Department of Justice has assisted with revising and coordinating new Telehealth regulations and regulations for prescriptions to improve Veterans' access to care and medications.
 - The Department of Interior helped provide employment opportunities for Veterans through the Park Ranger Internship Program.
 - The Small Business Administration almost doubled the goal of 10 percent of federal contracts with Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business by achieving 19 percent.
- And thanks to our partners in the private sector for helping provide Veterans' care. In 2017, VA authorized 6.1 million community care appointments, a 42 percent increase over 2016.

These and other collaborations have helped VA make significant progress in serving Veterans and their families. We have become more transparent by posting wait times for Veterans' appointments, Veterans' satisfaction with VA care and services, facility quality scores and accountability actions.

We've reduced dropped calls to our Veterans Crisis Line from 35% percent to less than 1 percent, ensured Veterans have same-day access to primary and mental health care at all our care facilities, identified 430 unused and under-utilized facilities for disposal, and improved claims processing times by 18 percent in 2017.

All of these accomplishments have resulted in raising Veteran "Trust" Scores from a low of 46% in 2014 to 70% today.

But we still have much work to do, and we at VA look forward to the continued support and leadership of President Trump, Members of Congress, Veterans Service Organizations, and all Americans as we fulfill Lincoln's famous words "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

As the year comes to a close, may God bless each and every one of you, and may God continue to bless this wonderful country of ours.

2018 National Veterans Day Poster Contest

Calling all artists! The 2018 National Veterans Day Poster Contest is underway. Each year the Veterans Day National Committee publishes a commemorative Veterans Day poster. The poster is selected from artwork submitted by artists nationwide and is distributed to VA facilities, military installations around the world across cities and town in our nation. It also serves as the cover of the official program for the Veterans Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

Over the years these posters have illustrated the rich history of our country's service men and women. The poster clearly reflects our pride and patriotism in saluting Veterans while providing the thematic artistry for the year.

2018 marks the Centennial Commemoration of the end of World War I on November 11, 1918. The theme for the 2018 Veterans Day Poster is: "The War to End All Wars".

The origin of Veterans Day came from Armistice Day.

Poster guidelines, submissions must:

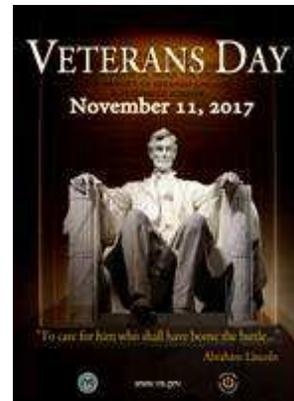
- Be 18" x 24" at 300 dots per inch, scale down submissions to 9"x12."
- Submissions are not restricted to "human centric" presentations, such as a joint color guard. Imagery of American icons, monuments or scenery can qualify, for example, the American flag.
- Representative of the Veterans serving during World War I. The Committee may select a particular submission but ask the artist to make modifications to the original design. Additional changes may be required prior to printing.
- Include sufficient information to demonstrate that the image is the work of the artist and is not copyrighted material (i.e. photos and concepts).
- To view examples of past winning submissions visit: <http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp>.

Submit electronic versions as jpg images or PDF files by email to vetsday@va.gov or send copies of artwork on a CD with artwork files to:

Veterans Day National Committee (002D)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

The deadline for submissions is 1 April, 2018. The Veterans Day National Committee will convene a selection sub-committee in May 2018 to review submissions and make a final selection.

Questions? – contact the Veterans Day Coordinator at vetsday@va.gov.



America's Wars

Provided by the Office of Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20420

(202) 461-7600

American Revolution (1775-1783)

| | |
|---|---------|
| Total U.S. Service members ¹ | 217,000 |
| Battle Deaths | 4,435 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 6,188 |

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Total U.S. Service members | 286,730 |
| Battle Deaths | 2,260 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 4,505 |

Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)

| | |
|---|---------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA estimate) | 106,000 |
| Battle Deaths (VA estimate) | 1,000 |

Mexican War (1846-1848)

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Total U.S. Service members | 78,718 |
| Battle Deaths | 1,733 |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) | 11,550 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 4,152 |

Civil War (1861-1865)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Total U.S. Service members (Union) | 2,213,363 |
| Battle Deaths (Union) | 140,414 |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) (Union) | 224,097 |
| Non-mortal Woundings (Union) | 281,881 |
| Total Service members (Conf.) ² | 1,050,000 |
| Battle Deaths (Confederate) ³ | 74,524 |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) (Confederate) ^{3,4} | 59,297 |
| Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate) | Unknown |

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

| | |
|---|---------|
| Total U.S. Service members (Worldwide) | 306,760 |
| Battle Deaths | 385 |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 2,061 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 1,662 |

World War I (1917-1918)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) | 4,734,991 |
| Battle Deaths | 53,402 |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 63,114 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 204,002 |

World War II (1941 –1945)

| | |
|--|------------|
| Total U.S. Service members (Worldwide) | 16,112,566 |
| Battle Deaths | 291,557 |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 113,842 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 670,846 |
| Living Veterans ⁵ | 1,711,000 |

NOTES:

1. Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is the median of estimated range from 184,000 – 250,000.
2. Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is median of estimated range from 600,000 – 1,500,000.
3. Death figures are based on incomplete returns.
4. Does not include 26,000 to 31,000 who died in Union prisons.
5. Estimate based upon new population projection methodology.

Korean War (1950-1953)

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

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total U.S. Service members (Worldwide) ⁶ | 8,744,000 |
| Deployed to Southeast Asia ⁷ | 3,403,000 |
| Battle Deaths ⁸ | 47,434 |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) ⁸ | 10,786 |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) ⁸ | 32,000 |
| Non-mortal Woundings ⁹ | 153,303 |
| Living Veterans ^{5, 10} | 7,391,000 |

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990- 1991)

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Total U.S. Service members (Worldwide) | 2,322,000 |
| Deployed to Gulf | 694,550 |
| Battle Deaths | 148 |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) | 235 |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 1,565 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 467 |
| Living Veterans ^{5, 10} | 2,244,583 |

America's Wars Total (1775 -1991)

| | |
|--|------------|
| U.S. Military Service during Wartime | 41,892,128 |
| Battle Deaths | 651,031 |
| Other Deaths (In Theater) | 308,800 |
| Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) | 230,254 |
| Non-mortal Woundings | 1,430,290 |
| Living War Veterans ¹¹ | 16,962,000 |
| Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace) | 23,234,000 |

Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 -) The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts.

For the most current GWOT statistics visit the following Department of Defense Website:

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>

Covers the period 8/5/64 - 1/27/73 (date of cease fire) Department of Defense estimate

- 8. Covers period 11/1/55 -5/15/75
- 9. Excludes 150,341 not requiring hospitalcare
- 10. Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) estimate, as of 4/09, does not include those still on active duty and may include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 11. Total will be more than sum of conflicts due to no "end date" established for Persian Gulf War. **Source:** Department of Defense (DOD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates as of Sep 2010.

America's Wars Fact Sheet, May 2017

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>American Revolution Last Veteran, Daniel F. Bakeman, died 4/5/1869, age 109 Last Widow, Catherine S. Damon, died 11/11/1906, age 92 Last Dependent, Phoebe M. Palmeter, died 4/25/1911, age 90</p> | <p>Mexican War Last Veteran, Owen Thomas Edgar, died 9/3/1929, age 98 Last Widow, Lena James Theobald, died 6/20/1963, age 89 Last Dependent, Jesse G. Bivens, died 11/1/1962, age 94</p> |
| <p>War of 1812 Last Veteran, Hiram Cronk, died 5/13/1905, age 105 Last Widow, Carolina King, died 6/28/1936, age unknown Last Dependent, Esther A.H. Morgan, died 3/12/1946, age 89</p> | <p>Civil War Last Union verified Veteran, Albert Woolson, died 8/2/1956, age 109 Last Confederate verified Veteran, Pleasant Crump, died 12/21/1951, age 104 Last Union Widow, Gertrude Janeway, died 1/17/2003, age 93 Last Confederate Widow, Maudie Hopkins died 8/1/2008, age 93</p> |
| <p>Indian Wars Last Veteran, Fredrak Fraske, died 6/18/1973, age 101</p> | <p>Spanish-American War Last veteran, Nathan E. Cook, died 9/10/1992, age 106</p> |
| <p>World War I Last Veteran, Frank Buckles, died 2/27/2011, age 110</p> | |

VA estimates the number of living World War II U.S. veterans will be: *

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 9/30/21.....223,727 | 9/30/22.....177,734 | 9/30/23.....141,416 | 9/30/24.....112,692 |
| 9/30/25.....89,934 | 9/30/26.....71,878 | 9/30/27.....57,531 | 9/30/28.....46,116 |
| 9/30/29.....37,017 | 9/30/30.....29,757 | 9/30/31.....23,955 | 9/30/32.....19,311 |
| 9/30/33.....15,589 | 9/30/34.....12,601 | 9/30/35.....10,200 | 9/30/36.....8,267 |

* Estimates have changed based on new population projections.

**U.S. Veterans and Dependents on
Benefits Rolls as of
April 2017**

| | VETERANS | CHILDREN | PARENTS | SURVIVING SPOUSES |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Civil War | - | 1 | - | - |
| Spanish-American War | - | 40 | - | 44 |
| Mexican Border | - | 2 | - | 6 |
| World War I | - | 1,434 | - | 1,055 |
| World War II | 120,240 | 8,920 | 9 | 167,378 |
| Philippines | 1,548 | 150 | 3 | 2,366 |
| Korean Conflict | 172,837 | 2,165 | 20 | 75,717 |
| Vietnam Era | 1,544,274 | 4,682 | 1,032 | 266,807 |
| Gulf War ¹ | 2,160,897 | 4,927 | 1,935 | 28,586 |
| Peacetime | 726,238 | 1,373 | 667 | 36,793 |
| Non service-connected ² | 281,501 | 9,653 | - | 190,960 |
| Service-connected ² | 4,444,533 | 14,041 | 3,666 | 387,792 |

1. For compensation and pension purposes, the Persian Gulf War period has not yet been terminated and includes Veterans of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring, and New Dawn.

2. This total includes peacetime veterans receiving benefits

• **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 November 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

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

THE FOLLOWING KWVA CHAPTERS HAVE DONATED TO THE WALL OF REMEMBRANCE PROJECT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| KWVA Chapter 181 - Kansas City | \$500.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 312 - Antietam | \$3200.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 311 - Arizona | \$1,000.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 54 - New Jersey | \$500.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 131 - Ohio | \$500.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 313 - Shenandoah | \$1000.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 22 - Arizona | \$500.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 289 - New York | \$200.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 106 - Tennessee | \$100.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 3 - Arizona | \$1,000.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 1 - Massachusetts | \$100.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 215 - Texas | \$1,000.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 142 - Maryland | \$1,500.00 |
| KWVA Chapter 313 - Shenandoah | \$4,500.00 - Second donation |
| <u>KWVA Chapter 122 - Arizona</u> | <u>\$1,000.00</u> |
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NORTH KOREA WARNS WAR IS INEVITABLE AS US, SOUTH KOREA WIND DOWN AIR DRILLS



Two U.S. Marine Corps F-35B Lightning II aircraft from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan, drop munitions at the Pilsung Range, South Korea on Aug. 31, 2017. ALEX ECHOLS/U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO

By KIM GAMEL | STARS AND STRIPES Published: December 6, 2017

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea warned that war has become “an established fact” as it lashed out Thursday against U.S. bombing drills and recent tough talk by Trump administration officials.

The hard-line rhetoric came as a former American diplomat representing the United Nations met with North Korea’s foreign minister in the highest-level U.N. visit to Pyongyang since 2010.

The twin developments underscore the delicate balance in pursuing a diplomatic resolution to the worst crisis to face the Korean Peninsula in decades, even as President Donald Trump’s administration and the North trade threats of military action.

The Air Force also sent a supersonic bomber to join state-of-the-art fighter jets Wednesday in a show of force during joint war games with South Korea.

The B-1B Lancer, which used to be nuclear capable but has been converted to carry conventional weapons, took part in a simulated bombing drill, South Korean officials said.

Fox News reported that two bombers were supposed to be flying together during the sortie, as has been the case in the past. But the second reported a maintenance issue while taxiing to the runway for takeoff, an Air Force officer told Fox on condition of anonymity.

Pacific Air Forces did not immediately reply to a request for comment about the report.

The United States also sent F-22 Raptors and F-35s for the first time to join more than 200 other war planes in the annual exercise known as Vigilant Ace, which ends Friday.

A North Korean foreign ministry official was quoted as saying the military drills and "bellicose remarks" by U.S. officials "cannot be interpreted in any other way but as a warning to us to be prepared for a war on the Korean peninsula."

The reclusive communist state broke more than two months of relative calm last month when it test-fired its most advanced intercontinental ballistic missile into the sea.

It also sent two intermediate-range missiles soaring over Japan and conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test earlier this year, prompting officials to worry it's making faster-than-expected progress toward its goal of developing a nuclear weapon that could reach the U.S. mainland.

National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said over the weekend that the North's pursuit of long-range nuclear capabilities poses the "greatest immediate threat" to the United States.

He said the potential for military conflict is "increasing every day, which means that we're in a race."

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham made similar statements on Sunday and called for the evacuation of U.S. military families to get them out of "harm's way." The Pentagon said it has no plans to do so.

CIA Director Mike Pompeo also said Saturday that U.S. intelligence agencies believe North Korean leader Kim Jong Un doesn't have a good idea about how tenuous his situation is domestically and internationally.

North Korea usually issues bellicose statements after what it sees as provocations by the United States. But Trump and senior administration officials have increasingly matched its tone as tensions have risen to the highest level in decades.

"The large-scale nuclear war exercises conducted by the U.S. in succession are creating [a] touch-and-go situation on the Korean peninsula and [a] series of violent war remarks coming from the U.S. high-level politicians amid such circumstances have made an outbreak of war on the Korean peninsula an established fact," the state-run Korean Central News Agency quoted the official as saying.

"The remaining question now is: when will the war break out," the spokesman said.

The official also reiterated North Korea's insistence that its nuclear weapons program is for self-defense, saying "we do not wish for a war but shall not hide from it."

"If the U.S. does not want to be burnt to death by the fire it ignites, it would better behave with prudence and caution," the report said.

The president also has tightened the economic noose on the North with tough new sanctions and a decision to put it back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.

North Korea has defied those efforts by persisting with its weapons program. But a new opportunity for engagement opened up when it agreed to hold talks this week with senior U.N. envoy Jeffrey Feltman, a former State Department official.

Feltman met with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho on Thursday, although no details about their talks were released.

On Wednesday, Feltman met with the vice foreign minister and discussed U.N. assistance and operations in North Korea along with "other matters of mutual concern," according to North Korea's official media.

China, the North's main ally, also sent its highest-level envoy in two years during a visit last month that was seen as an effort to bolster deteriorating relations between the two countries.

Trump has called on Beijing to do more to rein in the North by cutting off trade and oil supplies. China opposes North Korea's nuclear program but sees Pyongyang as a buffer against U.S. forces stationed in the South. It also fears a regime collapse would lead to a humanitarian crisis.

NORTH KOREA'S MILITARY CAPABILITIES, IN REVIEW



North Korea has embarked on an accelerated buildup of weapons of mass destruction and modernization of its already large conventional force.

Introduction

The United States and its Asian allies regard North Korea as a grave security threat. It has one of the world's largest conventional military forces, which, combined with its escalating missile and nuclear tests and aggressive rhetoric, has aroused concern worldwide. But world powers have been ineffective in slowing its path to acquire nuclear weapons. The North's leader, Kim Jong-un, sees the nuclear program as the means to sustain his regime. While it remains among the poorest countries in the world, North Korea spends nearly a quarter of its GDP on its military, according to U.S. State Department estimates. Its brinkmanship will continue to test regional and international partnerships aimed at preserving stability and security.

What are North Korea's nuclear capabilities?

North Korea has tested a series of different missiles, including short-, medium-, intermediate-, and intercontinental- range, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Estimates of the country's nuclear stockpile vary: some experts believe Pyongyang has between fifteen and twenty nuclear weapons, while U.S. intelligence believes the number to be between thirty and sixty bombs. The regime successfully tested intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM), each capable of carrying a large nuclear warhead, in July and November 2017. Pyongyang said that in its November testing of the new Hwasong-15 ICBM, the missile hit an altitude of 4,475 kilometers (2,780 miles), far above the International Space Station, and flew about 1,000 kilometers (590 miles) before landing in the sea off Japan's coast. Analysts estimate the Hwasong-15 has a potential range of 13,000 kilometers (8,100 miles) and, if fired on a flatter trajectory, could reach anywhere on the U.S. mainland.

American analysts and experts from other countries still debate the nuclear payload that the ICBM could carry, and it is still unclear whether the ICBMs have the capability to survive reentry. A confidential U.S. intelligence assessment from July 2017 reportedly concluded that North Korea has developed the technology to miniaturize a nuclear warhead to fit its ballistic missiles. And some experts caution that it is only a matter of time before North Korea completes its nuclear force. "We're going to have to learn to live with North Korea's ability to target the United States with nuclear weapons," said Jeffrey Lewis of the Middlebury Institute of Strategic Studies.

North Korea has conducted six nuclear tests, first in October 2006 and then in May 2009 under Kim Jong-il. Under Kim Jong-un's leadership the country detonated weapons in February 2013, January and September 2016, and September 2017. Future nuclear tests are anticipated. North Korea possesses the know-how to produce bombs with weapons-grade uranium or plutonium, the primary elements required for making fissile material—the core component of nuclear weapons.

With each test, North Korea's nuclear explosions have grown in power. The first explosion in 2006 was a plutonium-fueled atomic bomb with a yield equivalent to two kilotons of TNT, an energy unit used to measure the power of an explosive blast. The 2009 test had a yield of eight kilotons; the 2013 and January 2016 tests both had yields of approximately seventeen kilotons; and the September 2016 test had a yield of thirty-five kilotons, according to data from the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a Washington, DC-based nonpartisan think tank. (For comparison, the U.S. bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, the first atom bomb, had an estimated yield of sixteen kilotons.)

The test carried out on September 3, 2017, was significantly larger, experts say, and could indicate that the country has developed much more powerful bomb-making technology. Initial estimates from seismic activity led observers to conclude that the explosion may have exceeded one hundred kilotons. An explosion of such a size gives credence to the North's claims of having developed a hydrogen bomb.

As the power of these explosions has intensified, so too has the pace of both the country's nuclear and missile tests. Under Kim Jong-un, who assumed leadership of North Korea in late 2011, the nuclear program has markedly accelerated. In addition to four tests under his regime, the country has carried out more than eighty missile tests, far exceeding the trials of his father and grandfather before him.

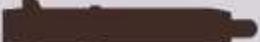
There remain significant unknowns surrounding the accuracy of North Korea's ballistic missiles. Expert observers have said that these missiles are usually inaccurate because of their reliance on early guidance systems acquired from the Soviet Union. However, some defectors and experts say North Korea has begun using GPS guidance, similar to that of China's navigation system, raising questions about the provenance of the system and whether North Korea's arsenal of missiles is more accurate and reliable than previously believed.

North Korea's Ballistic Missiles

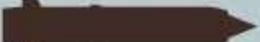
Short-Range Ballistic Missiles

| | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| KN-02 |  | 120–170 km |
| Hwasong-5 |  | 300 km |
| Hwasong-6 |  | 500 km |
| Hwasong-7 |  | 800–1,000 km |
| ER Scud MaRV |  | 1,000 km |

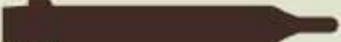
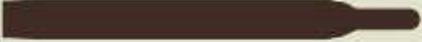
Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles

| | | |
|-------|---|----------------|
| KN-11 |  | 1,000–1,200 km |
|-------|---|----------------|

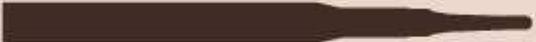
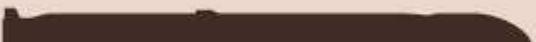
Medium-Range Ballistic Missiles

| | | |
|---------|---|----------------|
| KN-15 |  | 1,200–2,000 km |
| No-dong |  | 1,200–1,500 km |

Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missiles

| | | |
|---------|---|----------------|
| Musudan |  | 2,500–4,000 km |
| KN-17 |  | 4,500 km |

Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------------|
| KN-08 |  | 5,500–11,500 km |
| KN-14 |  | 8,000–10,000 km |
| Hwasong-14 |  | 10,400 km |

ICBMs/Satellite Launch Vehicles

| | | |
|--------|--|------------|
| Unha-3 |  | 10,000 km+ |
|--------|--|------------|

Has North Korea's nuclear program been aided by other countries?

Though North Korea's nuclear program has been predominantly indigenous, it has received external assistance over the years. Pyongyang received Moscow's help from the late 1950s to the 1980s: it helped build a nuclear research reactor, provided missile designs, light-water reactors, and some nuclear fuel. In the 1970s, China and North Korea cooperated on defense, including the development [PDF] and production of ballistic missiles. North Korean scientists also benefited from academic exchanges with Soviet and Chinese counterparts. Though the exchanges may not have been explicitly tied to weapons development, the information learned from research sharing and visits to nuclear facilities can be applied to a militarized nuclear program, according to Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., an analyst of North Korean defense and intelligence affairs.

Pakistan emerged as an important military collaborator with North Korea in the 1970s. Bilateral nuclear assistance began when scientists from the two countries were both in Iran working on ballistic missiles during the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988). In the 1990s, North Korea acquired access to Pakistani centrifuge technology and designs from scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan, who had directed the militarization of Pakistan's nuclear program. Pyongyang also received designs for a uranium warhead that Pakistan had likely obtained from China. In exchange, Pakistan received North Korean missile technology. It remains unclear whether Khan acted directly or indirectly on the behalf of the Pakistani government. (Khan's multinational network also illicitly sold nuclear technology and material to buyers, including Iran and Libya.) The nuclear know-how gained from Pakistan likely enabled North Korea to pursue a uranium route to the bomb and operate centrifuges.

Third parties have also facilitated Pyongyang's program through the illicit shipment of metal components needed for centrifuge construction and nuclear weaponization. North Korea has developed covert networks for the procurement of technology, materials, and designs to boost its conventional and nuclear weapons programs since the 1960s. Over time, North Korea's networks have shifted from being concentrated in Europe to Asia and Africa, and goods have often been traded multiple times before reaching North Korean hands, says Bermudez.

The North Korean Threat

CHINA



- Missile Launch Sites
- Nuclear Research Complex
- ◆ Nuclear Test Site
- ▶ Port of Busan
- ⬡ THAAD Missile Defense System
- ▲ U.S. Military Bases
- ⋯ Military Demarcation Line
- The Northern Limit Line

Sources: James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, United States Forces Korea, U.S. Navy. Credit: Eleanor Albert

COUNCIL *on*
**FOREIGN
RELATIONS**

What punitive steps has North Korea faced?

North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in 2003 and its missile tests and first nuclear test in 2006 prompted the UN Security Council to unanimously adopt resolutions condemning North Korea's actions and imposing sanctions against the country. The Security Council has steadily ratcheted up sanctions through subsequent resolutions in the hopes of changing Pyongyang's behavior. These additional measures ban the sale of materials and technology that would bolster North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear

weapons programs, financial assistance to these programs, and arms sales; they also impose restrictions on select luxury goods and other foreign trade, and force the inspections of cargo bound for North Korea.

Though sanctions have curtailed North Korea's access to materials, it is difficult to enforce and regulate all international cargo deliveries. More recently, there has been a greater push to limit North Korean financial resources in a bid to stunt funds directed to military and nuclear advancements. Some experts and officials have condemned China's earlier assistance to the North's ballistic missile program, ongoing trade relationship with North Korea, and lackluster enforcement of sanctions.

Separately, North Korea has a record of missile sales and nuclear technology sharing with countries like Iran, Libya, Syria, Egypt, Vietnam, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, and Myanmar. It has secretly transferred "nuclear-related and ballistic-missile-related equipment, know-how, and technology." Given North Korea's economic constraints, fears abound that more nuclear material and knowledge could be sold, enhancing the potential for nuclear terrorism.

Does North Korea possess other weapons of mass destruction?

The North is believed to have an arsenal of chemical weapons, including sulfur mustard, chlorine, phosgene, sarin, and VX nerve agents. The regime reportedly has the "capacity to produce nerve, blister, blood, and choking agents" and is estimated to have stockpiled between 2,500 to 5,000 tons of chemical weapons. Its chemical toxins can be fired using a range of conventional shells, rockets, and missiles. The Korean People's Army undergoes training to prepare for potential combat in a contaminated environment. North Korea is reported to have received early help from the Soviet Union and China to develop its chemical weapons program.

North Korea is also believed to possess some biological weapons capabilities, although it became party in 1987 to the Biological Weapons Convention, a treaty banning the production, development, stockpiling, and attempts to acquire biological weapons. In 1988, it acceded to the Geneva Protocol, which prohibits the use of asphyxiating, poisonous, and other gases in warfare. The North allegedly has the ability to produce pathogens such as anthrax and smallpox, though it is unclear if these bacteria can be deployed in combat.

What are North Korea's conventional military capabilities?

North Korea ranks fourth among the world's largest militaries with more than 1.1 million personnel in the country's armed forces, accounting for nearly 5 percent of its total population. Article 86 of the North Korean constitution states "National defense is the supreme duty and honor of citizens," and it requires all citizens to serve in the military. The regime spent an average of \$3.5 billion annually on military expenditures between 2004 and 2014, according to a U.S. State Department report. Although Pyongyang is outspent by its neighbors and adversaries in dollar-to-dollar comparisons and defense experts say it operates with aging equipment and technology, the regime's forward-deployed military position and missiles aimed at Seoul ensure that Pyongyang's conventional capabilities remain a constant threat to its southern neighbor. U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis has cautioned that war on the Korean peninsula would be "catastrophic" and he has described North Korea as "the most urgent and dangerous threat to peace and security."

North Korea has deployed munitions near and along its border with the South and also has conventional missiles aimed at its neighbor and Japan in a bid to deter potential attacks. According to a 2015 U.S. Department of Defense report [PDF] and a 2016 South Korean Ministry of National Defense report, the North Korean military has more than 1,300 aircraft, nearly 300 helicopters, 430 combatant vessels, 250 amphibious vessels, 70 submarines, 4,300 tanks, 2,500 armored vehicles, and 5,500 multiple-rocket launchers. Experts also estimate that North Korea has upwards of one thousand missiles of varying ranges.

Does it pose a cybersecurity threat?

North Korea has developed computer science know-how and cyberattack capabilities, likely boosted by Chinese and Soviet assistance in the 1980s and 1990s. The majority of North Korea's earlier cyberattacks have been distributed denial of service (DDoS), attempts to disrupt a website by flooding it with traffic from multiple sources, and web-defacing in nature, indicating that its cyber operations were still not that sophisticated. Much of the North's cyber activities take advantage of using infrastructure outside of the country, particularly China's infrastructure and, to a certain extent, nodes in third countries like Malaysia, boosting the regime's deniability and ability to avoid retribution for attacks. In recent years, responsibility for cyberattacks on South Korean banks and media outlets as well as the 2014 Sony Pictures hack was attributed to groups with ties to North Korea.

There is mounting evidence that North Korea was also involved in the February 2016 cyber theft of \$81 million from the Bangladeshi central bank account at the Federal Reserve in New York, the first instance of a state actor being identified for using cyber operations to steal money. The North's operations grow bolder still: researchers have linked North Korea to an increasing number of cyber incidents on financial institutions and South Korea said the North had breached its military cyber command in December 2016. A Center for Strategic and International Studies report stated "North Korea seems heavily invested in growing and developing its cyber capabilities for both political and military purposes." Pyongyang and government-linked cyber entities view cyberattacks as a means of seeking financial gain, acting as a deterrent against adversaries in the event of military conflict, and fulfilling the country's desire of being portrayed as a capable and dangerous actor, says Adam Segal, director of CFR's Digital and Cyberspace Policy Program.

What drives North Korea's militarization?

North Korea's guiding philosophical principles have been *juche* (self-reliance) and *songun* (military-first politics). The military plays a central role in political affairs and its position has been steadily elevated through the Kim dynasty. North Korean leadership believes that hostile external forces could mount an attack, including its democratic neighbor to the south and the United States. As a result, in Pyongyang's eyes, the only way to guarantee its national survival is to develop asymmetric military capabilities to thwart its perceived threats.

In the decades since the Korean War armistice, the regime in Pyongyang has grown increasingly isolated, in large part due to its ongoing nuclear pursuits and other military provocations. The North's economy and impoverished population of twenty-five million are more and more cut off from the global economy, with limited means to acquire much-needed hard currency. Despite Pyongyang's reputation as a pariah state, Kim Jong-un has embraced a national strategy to jointly build up the economy and its nuclear forces.

Kim has struggled to deliver on his economic promises. Demonstrating unquestioned military might, particularly of the nuclear variety, is the means by which the young leader seeks to consolidate his rule and portray himself as powerful. The nuclear program has a dual purpose: to deter external threats but also to bolster the strength and image of Kim. "Kim Jong-un believes that nuclear weapons are his guarantee of regime survival," says Bruce Bennett, a senior researcher at RAND Corporation, a California-based think tank.

Since Kim Jong-un assumed power, the country has shed the ambiguous language surrounding its nuclear and missile development, instead vowing to conduct tests whenever it sees fit. "The regime's nuclear arsenal could make it more aggressive in dealings with South Korea and the rest of the region," said Stanford University professor Siegfried Hecker. Punitive measures taken against Pyongyang seem to have emboldened Kim Jong-un's commitment to strengthening his military.

Bridging Past And Present

June 24-27, 2018

Charleston, South Carolina

Hosted by *The Korean War Legacy
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DATES

- Check in: June 24th
- Conference: June 25th to 26th
- Check out: June 27th

ELIGIBILITY

The conference is open to educators who are willing to either:

- Complete 1 interview of a veteran
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- Educators who exceed expectations will be considered for a research trip to South Korea.

LOCATION

Patriots Point Maritime Naval Museum (Quality Inn)

COST

Thanks to the generous support of the KWLF, there is **NO COST** for double occupancy room, meals and conference speakers. Attendees only pay a \$55 registration fee.

- New attendees are eligible for a \$450 airfare scholarship.

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| Office of the Inspector General | 202.461.4702 | https://www.va.gov/oig |
| Office of the National Cemetery System | 202.461.6240 | www.cem.va.gov |
| Arlington National Cemetery | 703.607.8585 | www.arlingtoncemetery.mil |
| Board of Veterans Appeals | 202.565.5436 | www.bva.va.gov |
| Central Office (Main Switchboard) | 202.273.5400 | |
| Funeral Arrangements & Eligibility | 703.607.8585 | www.cem.va.gov |
| Government Life Insurance | 800.669.8477 | www.insurance.va.gov |
| Personal Locator | 202.273.4950 | |

Other Veteran Government Agencies

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| Department of Defense | 703.545.6700 | https://www.defense.gov |
| Veterans Employment & Training Office | 202.693.4700 | https://www.dol.gov/vets |
| Small Business Administration (VA) | 202.205.6600 | https://www.sba.gov |

Congressional Committees

| | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs | 202.224.9126 | www.veterans.senate.gov |
| House Committee on Veterans Affairs | 202.225.3527 | https://veterans.house.gov |
| Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition | 202.225.6600 | www.ruralhealthinfo.org |

Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies

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|--|--------------|---|
| U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims | 202.418.3453 | uscourts.cavc.gov |
| Questions on specific Cases | 202.501.5970 | |
| National Organization for Vets Advocates (Attorneys) | 877.483.8238 | https://vetadvocates.org |
| USO | 888.484.3876 | https://www.uso.org |

POW/MIA

| | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs | 703.699.1169 | http://www.dpaa.mil/ |
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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 |
| VA PTSD Information | 802.296.6300 | www.ptsd.va.gov |
| VA PTSD Help – In Crisis – Suicide Prevention | 800.273.8255 | www.veteranscrisisline.net |
| National Center for PTSD – Behavioral Science Division | 857.364.4172 | www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/about/divisions |

Locator and Reunion Services

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| Army Worldwide Locator | 866.771.6357 | hqdainet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm |
| Navy Times Locator Services | 901.874.3388 | https://www.navytimes.com |
| Personnel Locator | 800.333.4636 | |

Archives

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| Air Force Support Office | 202.404.2264 | www.afhistory.af.mil |
| Marine Corps Historical Office | 703.432.4877 | guides.grc.usmcu.edu/archives |
| National Archives – Military Records | 866.272.6272 | www.archives.gov/research/military |
| Naval Historical Center (Operations Archives) | 202.433.3170 | www.history.navy.mil |
| United States Army Center of Military History | 866.272.6272 | www.history.army.mil |

Women Veterans

| | | |
|---|--------------|--|
| Women in Military Service-America Memorial Foundation | 703.533.1155 | www.womensmemorial.org |
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| <p>Arlington National Cemetery: (877) 907-8585 http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil</p> <p>Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988; http://www.afrh.gov</p> <p>Army & Air Force Exchange Service: www.shopmyexchange.com Army</p> <p>Echoes: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/echoes Editor's e-mail address: ArmyEchoes@mail.mil</p> <p>Army Echoes Blog: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/blog</p> <p>Army Emergency Relief: (866) 878-6378; http://www.aerhq.org</p> <p>Army Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/USArmy</p> <p>Army Flickr: http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/</p> <p>Army Homepage: http://www.army.mil</p> <p>Army Live Blog: http://armylive.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Army mobile phone apps: http://www.army.mil/mobile/</p> <p>Army Retirement Services: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement</p> <p>Army Stand To!: http://www.army.mil/standto/</p> <p>Army Lodging Program: (877) 711-8326; http://www.pal.army.mil Reservations: http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com</p> <p>Army Twitter: https://twitter.com/USArmy/</p> <p>Army YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/usarmy</p> <p>Casualty Assistance Checklist for Retired Soldiers: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/docs/Post/CasualtyAssistanceChecklist.pdf</p> <p>Chief of Staff, Army Retired Soldier Council: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil</p> <p>Combat-Related Special Compensation: (866) 281-3254 opt.4; https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC</p> <p>Commissary: http://www.commissaries.com</p> <p>Concurrent Retired & Disability Pay: (800) 321-1080, http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html</p> <p>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau: (855) 411-2372 http://www.consumerfinance.gov/</p> <p>Death — Report a Retired Soldier's Death: Call HQDA Casualty Operations Center, (800) 626-3317; from overseas, call (502) 613-3317 collect. https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reporting%20A%20Death</p> <p>DS Logon: https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/</p> <p>Funeral Honors (Military): Army Coordinator: (502) 613-8218 https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh/</p> <p>ID Card Facilities: (800) 538-9552; Nearest facility: www.dmdc.osd.mil/rs/</p> <p>Legal Assistance Locator (Military): http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php</p> <p>Long Term Care Insurance: (800) 582-3337 http://www.ltcfeds.com/</p> <p>MyArmyBenefits: http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/ Help Desk: (888) 721-2769 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST Monday - Friday);</p> <p>Survivor Outreach Services: (855) 707-2769, https://www.sos.army.mil/</p> <p>Reserve Component Retirements (888) 276-9472 https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Reserve%20Component%20Retirements</p> <p>RC Application for Retired Pay: 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: https://www.hrc.army.mil/Default.aspx?ID=13664</p> <p>Soldiers Magazine: http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/</p> <p>Space-Available Travel: http://www.amc.af.mil/Home/AMC-Travel-Site</p> <p>Soldier for Life on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSASoldierForLife</p> | <p>Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act: http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/usfspa</p> <p> U. S. Army Retired Lapel Button and Badge: Type "Soldier for Life" into the search box at https://www.shopmyexchange.com</p> <p>Veterans Service Records — Replace DD Form 214, awards: Retired 4/1/1996 or later: Visit http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/, Click on "Army White Pages" at the bottom, then log in. Next click on "Click Here to Access Your Army Record." Retired 3/31/1996 or earlier: Call Human Resources Command at (888) 276-9472 or visit http://vetrecs.archives.gov National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records); 1 Archive Drive. St. Louis, MO 63138-1002</p> <p>DFAS (800) 321-1080 (M-F, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST) http://www.dfas.mil/ myPay (888) 332-7411; https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx Retiree/Annuitant web page http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html</p> <p>Social Security (800) 772-1213 http://www.socialsecurity.gov/; If overseas, contact the American Embassy/consulate, or visit http://www.socialsecurity.gov/foreign/phones.html.</p> <p>Medicare (800) 633-4227 http://www.medicare.gov</p> <p>TRICARE http://www.tricare.mil</p> <p>Health Beneficiary Counseling Assistance Coordinator: http://www.tricare.mil/bcacdcao, or nearest military treatment facility</p> <p>TRICARE North: (877) 874-2273; http://www.hnfs.com; 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>TRICARE South: (800) 444-5445; http://www.humana-military.com/ 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>TRICARE West: (877) 988-9378; https://www.uhcmilitarywest.com/; 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>TRICARE Overseas: (888) 777-8343; http://www.tricare-overseas.com</p> <p>TRICARE for Life: (866) 773-0404; TDD (866) 773-0405 http://tricare.mil/Plans/HealthPlans/TFL.aspx</p> <p>TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery: (877) 363-1296; http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery/</p> <p>TRICARE Network Pharmacy: (877) 363-1303; http://www.express-scripts.com</p> <p>TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan: (888) 838-8737; http://www.TRDP.org</p> <p>US Family Health Plan: http://www.usfhp.com/</p> <p>Armed Forces Recreation Centers http://www.armymwr.com</p> <p>Hale Koa Hotel, Hawaii: (800) 367-6027; http://halekoa.com</p> <p>Edelweiss Resort, Bavaria: 011-49-8821-9440 http://www.edelweisslodgeandresort.com</p> <p>Shades of Green, Florida: (888) 593-2242; (407) 824-3665 http://www.shadesofgreen.org/reservations.htm</p> <p>Dragon Hill, Korea: 011-822-790-0016 http://www.dragonhilllodge.com</p> <p>Veterans Affairs (VA) Information http://www.va.gov</p> <p>Burial & Memorial Benefits: http://www.cem.va.gov/ (877) 907-8199</p> <p>Benefits and Services: (800) 827-1000 (Retired Soldiers overseas should contact the American Embassy/consulate); TDD (800) 829-4833 http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/</p> <p>GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/</p> <p>Health Care Benefits: (877) 222-8387; http://www.va.gov/health</p> <p>Insurance: 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

• **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)



• **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

• **ATTENTION ALL RETIREES AND ANNUITANTS,**

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed. 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

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Fisher

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