The following monthly update for March 2018 is submitted by the Executive Director of the Korean War Veterans Association of the United States of America.

• **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT REPORT:** Submitted by Mr. John “Sonny” Edwards – AS OF 3-26-18

  NEW MEMBERS TYTD 115
  ACTIVE MEMBERS LYTD 12,644
  ACTIVE MEMBERS TYTD 12,190
  DECREASE 554

  DECEASED COMRADES REPORTED TYTD 234 AVG/MO 78

  DEPARTMENTS & CHAPTERS WITH 2 OR MORE NEW MEMBERS PAST 30 DAYS
  AZ-2 CA-2 FL-3 HI-3 NE-3 NJ-2 OH-4 TX-2

  NOTE: ONLY 22 DEPARTMENTS OR CHAPTERS RECRUITED ANY NEW MEMBERS

• **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)

• **REVISIT KOREA TOURS TO END IN 2020**

  **Warren Wiedhain, Chairman, Revisit Korea Program**

  The government of the Republic of Korea (MPVA) has recently notified all the United Nations countries that participate in the Revisit Korea Tours that they will end in 2020. This very popular and generous subsidized program, which commenced in 1975, has allowed tens of thousands of Korean War Veterans and their families the opportunity to Revisit South Korea where in the 1950s they sacrificed "life, limb and treasure” to save "A people they never met and a country they never knew!" Those of us who have participated in this generous program owe a big "Thanks" to a grateful Korean people who, over all these years, have welcomed us with sincere appreciation for helping to save their county from the ravages of communism. From a practical viewpoint, what does this mean?

  First, if you're already registered for a Revisit Korea tour - do nothing! You will be notified of the dates and given an opportunity to select one.
SECOND, IF YOU ARE NOT PREREGISTERED, AND WANT TO PARTICIPATE, GO TO PAGE #78 OF THE RECENT "GRAYBEARDS" MAGAZINE AND SIGN UP. (OR GO ONLINE AT WWW.KWVA.ORG) THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT SINCE APPLICANTS ARE SELECTED BASED ON THE DATE THEY REGISTERED FOR THE PROGRAM.

ELIGIBILITY:
* ANY VETERAN WHO SERVED "IN, OVER OR AROUND" KOREA FROM 25 JUNE 1950 TO 25 OCTOBER 1954.
* THE FAMILY MEMBER OF A VETERAN, OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE, WHO WAS KILLED IN THE WAR OR HAS SUBSEQUENTLY DIED.
* FIRST PRIORITY IS TO A VETERAN WHO HAS NEVER BEEN ON A REVISIT KOREA TOUR.
* SECOND PRIORITY IS TO A VETERAN WHO HAS NOT RETURNED IN THE PAST FIVE (5) YEARS.
* ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE IN GOOD HEALTH, AS CERTIFIED BY THEIR DOCTOR. IN ADDITION, THEY MUST HAVE "DEATH AND DISABILITY" AS WELL AS "TRIP CANCELLATION" INSURANCE.

NOTES: (1) EACH ELIGIBLE VETERAN (OR BEREAVED FAMILY MEMBER) MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A "TRAVEL COMPANION" DURING THE ENTIRE TOUR. IN THE PAST FEW YEARS WE HAVE HAD MANY CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ACCOMPANY THE VETERANS. (2) VETERANS KOREA SERVICE MUST BE CONFIRMED WITH AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT, SUCH AS A DD 214.

COMMENCING IN 2021, THE ROK REVISIT KOREA PROGRAM WILL FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION PRIMARILY ON BEREAVED FAMILY MEMBERS OF KOREAN WAR VETERANS.

THE 2018 REVISIT KOREA DATES FOR KWVA USA ARE IN JUNE, JULY AND SEPTEMBER.

• VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES URGED TO GUARD AGAINST SCAMS
March 8, 2018 2:12 am
RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — As part of National Consumer Protection Week, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring is urging veterans and military families to familiarize themselves with special protections in state and federal law to help shield veterans from fraud, scams and abusive business practices.
Herring said veterans and military families are often targeted by scammers because they have a consistent income and can often be called away from home for long periods of time.
Last year, Herring introduced a legal resource guide to help veterans and military families understand their employment rights, consumer protection resources, educational and tax rights and benefits. The guide is available at every Department of Veterans Services Benefits Offices, on college campuses and online at www.VaMilGuide.com.

• POSSIBLE MEDICARE SCAM – BE AWARE
Just a heads up that there is a scam going around involving the new Medicare Cards coming out in April.
Pass it along. It might come in handy to know Medicare will never call you on the phone.

It is true that the new cards will be sent out from April 2018 to April 2019. Medicare has also warned on scams. They do not charge for cards or want your personal information over the phone.

This change is coming up. DO NOT give out information over the phone.

Medicare Cards without Social Security Numbers Coming.
Example of the new Medicare cards.
This is pretty important to get to people with Medicare, their families, and friends or adult kids who help parents with Medicare.

Starting 4/1/18 Medicare will start a year-long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently, the ID number is your social security number. This is starting to hit the media. Scammers are opportunistic.

First of all the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don’t need to request it or do anything. It will show up.

**WHAT'S THE SCAM?**

Somebody from "MEDICARE " will call to tell you-you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you will need a temporary card. Fee for the card is between $5-50 dollars. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to. Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call. Ditto for anybody saying they “work with Medicare to make sure you get everything you are entitled to”.

**PRESIDENT NOMINATES NEW VA SECRETARY:** The president yesterday nominated Navy Rear Adm. (Dr.) Ronny Jackson to replace Dr. David Shulkin as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Dr. Shulkin was brought onboard as VA Undersecretary of Health in the aftermath of a nationwide crisis in care and access that rocked veterans’ confidence in their VA. He was retained by President Trump and confirmed as VA Secretary by the Senate 100-0. Under his tenure, the VA achieved a host of successes ranging from increased accountability and transparency to a beefed-up education package and increases in overall funding and patient satisfaction. Dr. Jackson joined the Navy in 1995, and according to his official bio, served in Iraq as an emergency physician in charge of resuscitative medicine for a forward deployed surgical shock trauma platoon, and since 2006, has been the White House physician for three presidents. The VFW will closely monitor the Senate confirmation process, because what Dr. Jackson’s bio does not reflect is any experience working with the VA or with veterans, or managing any organization of size, much less one as multifaceted as the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert Wilkie will serve as acting secretary in the interim. He is currently the Defense Department’s Undersecretary for Personnel & Readiness.

- **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](https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/allstate.asp)

- **VA ON-LINE INFORMATION SITES:**
  - 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](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](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](https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/docs/factsheets/NCA_Weekend_Burial_Program.pdf)

- **Preserving the Past**
  If you are looking for military records or honors/awards for yourself or a loved one, this article from Military Times has detailed information on how to obtain what you need:
**Hearing on Proposed Changes to Arlington National Cemetery Eligibility:** The House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing to discuss the rapidly shrinking number of in-ground grave sites at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). Testimony that advocated for making the eligibility requirements for ANC commensurate with VA’s National Cemetery Administration, and offered support to the proposed “Southern Expansion,” which would give ANC more than 38,000 additional in-ground burial sites. This combination would extend the life of the cemetery through 2074. However, additional land acquisition would be necessary beyond that date. In addition to the “Southern Expansion,” the Department of the Army would be well served to consider using excess land at the Soldiers Home National Cemetery, which is adjacent to the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C., and would provide additional 80,000-120,000 gravesites. Watch the hearing: [https://youtu.be/PAiqwWLYQdw?t=24m50s](https://youtu.be/PAiqwWLYQdw?t=24m50s)

**VA RESUMES APPLICATIONS FOR NEW VETERANS ID CARD:** After temporarily suspending applications for the recently created veterans identification (ID) cards due to high demand, VA is once again accepting applications. The new veterans ID card was created by the Veterans Identification Card Act of 2015 so veterans who do not have a Veterans Health Identification Card are able to prove their veteran status without having to carry their DD-214. The cards are valid only for proving military service and cannot be used for VA or military benefits. [Apply for a new veterans ID card.](https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/salute-veterans/2017/11/14/preserving-the-past-9-tips-on-obtaining-military-records-medals-for-you-or-a-loved-one/)

**Are you a caregiver for the Veteran in your life?**

![VA caregiver benefits provide financial relief and tools to succeed.](https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/salute-veterans/2017/11/14/preserving-the-past-9-tips-on-obtaining-military-records-medals-for-you-or-a-loved-one/)

VA understands that caregiving can be a tough job. That’s why VA’s Caregiver Support Program offers training, resources and tools to help you take on this important role. Curtis, a Marine Corps Veteran, medically retired after an injury and needed around-the-clock care. His wife, Jenna, became his caregiver. “I’ve had to learn to be his eyes and his ears,” she says. Through VA’s Caregiver Support Program, caregivers have access to a local Caregiver Support Coordinator. This licensed professional is devoted to providing useful information and connecting caregivers in the community. The program also provides peer support mentoring, a support phone line and a website with a wealth of resources on family caregiving. The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, a program specifically for eligible Post 9/11 Veterans and their caregivers offers additional supports and services, including access to health insurance and financial assistance. The primary family caregiver must meet certain criteria, but is not required to be the Veteran’s spouse. Jenna’s role has changed over the years, but VA’s program has given her the resources she and her family need. “If it weren’t for the VA, there are times I honestly don’t know what we would do,” she says. Visit [Explore.VA.gov](https://explore.va.gov/health-care/assisted-living?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=march-caregiver.benefits-monthly_3.28&utm_term=body-button-page&utm_content=healthcare-application-all-null) to learn more about VA benefits and how to apply, or click on the button below to learn more about the Caregiver Support Program.

Dear Veterans and Family Members,
Do you have questions about the Decision Ready Claim (DRC) Program, like:
“Can I really get a decision in 30 days after I submit my claim?”
“How do I file a DRC?”
“Am I eligible for the DRC Program?”

Go to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Facebook Page to speak with DRC Program experts about the fastest way to file a VA claim. You can also learn more on our Decision Ready Claims page.
We look forward to sharing more information with you!
Veterans Benefits Administration

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | 810 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20420

• **DHA Executive Council Meeting:** On March 27, 2018, the Executive Director of the KWVA participated in the quarterly Defense Health Agency (DHA) MSO/VSO Executive Council meeting led by DHA Director Vice Adm. Raquel Bono. She was joined by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Tom McCaffery, Office of Personnel Management Deputy Director for Healthcare & Insurance Laurie Bodenheimer and the Presidents of Humana Military and Health Net Federal Services, who currently hold the TRICARE contracts for the East and West Regions respectively. The briefing included an overview of the role that DHA plays as a Combat Support Agency and an update regarding TRICARE implementation in the East and West service regions. Emphasis was placed on the need for beneficiaries who pay their premiums and fees by credit card to update their billing information with the new contractors. Beneficiaries who fail to do so will no longer be covered by TRICARE. The meeting also included an update on the TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan, which is scheduled to end on December 31, 2018. Eligible beneficiaries will instead be eligible to enroll in the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). To learn more about how this change may impact you, please click here.
• **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).

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.
• **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](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.
Bridging Past And Present
June 24-27,2018
Charleston, South Carolina

Hosted by The Korean War Legacy Foundation, Inc.

Join educators and Korean War historians to learn more about the Korean War and its legacy. Participants will hear from top experts and learn how to bring veterans and their stories into the classroom.

• **EXPLORE** the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. Feeling adventurous? Take the option to stay overnight on the ship on June 24th.

• **LEARN** how to set up an interview day at your school, and how to incorporate veteran artifacts into the classroom.

• **CREATE** lesson plans for the coming year that allow students to learn history straight from veterans.

• **HONOR** our veterans with a special banquet event in remembrance of June 25, 1950, the start of the Korean War.

**REGISTER TODAY**
www.kwdhproject.org/teacher-conference

**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
- Complete 1 transcript of a veteran interview in the archive.
- 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.
March 27, 2018

Special Invitation to Join Korean Government’s 70th Korean War Anniversary Project

Greetings,

My name is Jongwoo Han—I am the President of the Korean War Legacy Foundation (KWLF), which is supported by the ROK’s Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs (MPVA). I am writing to request your participation in a special project executed by the KWLF and MPVA.

As you may know, 2020 is the 70th anniversary of the breakout of the Korean War. To commemorate this special occasion, we are launching a special website that will hold interviews of Korean War Veterans from the 21 countries that participated in the war. These interviews will be conducted in veterans’ mother tongues and then translated into Korean.

The KWLF, incorporated as a non-for-profit in New York, has accumulated more than 1,000 in-depth interviews and 6,000 historical memorabilia of KWVs, available at www.kwvd.org. Based on this KWV digital archive, we have created lesson plans, history book chapters, the Korean War Memory Bank (a database of interviews and artifacts), and a special documentary film for teachers and students. All of this will be completed by the end of 2018 and can be, currently, viewed at www.koreanwarlegacy.org.

In addition to this 70th anniversary project, we would also like to invite History, Social Studies, and other relevant teachers to our annual Teachers Conference, upon your recommendation. The annual conference is about the Korean War and its legacy of Korea’s advanced economy and democracy. The foundation will extend invitations, with consideration of full financial support, to those who are interested in this conference. This year, the conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, from June 24-27, 2018.

Those who successfully attend this conference can also be considered to join our annual “Teachers Korea Visit Program.”

I sincerely hope you help your veterans participate in this special 70th anniversary project. Please let me know if you have any questions, and I hope to hear from you soon.

With respect,

[Signature]

Jongwoo Han, Ph.D. (315) 480-9427
jonghan@syr.edu
MIA UPDATE:

-- Army Pfc. Lamar E. Newman, 19, of Griffin, Ga., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 2, in his hometown. Newman was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. In November 1950, his unit took part in a defensive operation in the vicinity of the village of Kujang, North Korea. The division suffered heavy losses, with many soldiers going missing or being killed or captured. Newman went missing on Nov. 27, 1950, near the village of Kujang as a result of heavy fighting.

-- Army Cpl. Dow F. Worden, 20, of Boardman, Ore., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 27 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. Hall was a member of Company A, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. In September 1951, Worden’s unit was operating in the vicinity of Hill 1024 in South Korea, near Heartbreak Ridge, when they were attacked by Chinese forces. After moving east to nearby Hill 867, American forces withdrew after suffering a large barrage of enemy mortar fire. Worden could not be accounted for after the battle and was declared missing in action on Sept. 28, 1951. His name did not appear on any prisoner of war lists and no returning POWs indicated any knowledge of his whereabouts, prompting the Army to declare him deceased in December 1953.

-- Army Cpl. Thomas H. Mullins, 18, of Harriman, Tenn., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 29 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Mullins was a member of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. In November 1950, his unit engaged with Chinese forces near Unsan, North Korea. Approximately 600 men were killed, captured or missing. Mullins was declared missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950. He was later reported to have died while being held in POW Camp 5, Pyokdong, North Korea. Read about Mullins.

-- Army Pfc. Leroy W. Bryant, 22, of Autreyville, Ga., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 9, in Columbus, Ohio. Bryant was a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On Feb. 6, 1951, Bryant’s unit was tasked to determine the location and strength of enemy forces in the town of Yonghyon-ni, South Korea. They were attacked by enemy forces and forced to withdraw. Bryant could not be accounted for after the attack and was declared missing in action. Bryant’s name later appeared on a list of Americans who died while in custody of communist forces, informally known as the “Christmas List.” Following the war, a returning prisoner from Bryant’s regiment reported he was told Bryant died while being marched north to prisoner of war Camp 1, located along the Yalu River, near the village of Chongsong.

--Army Sgt. Julius E. McKinney, missing from the Korean War, has now been accounted for. [Link]

In late November 1950, McKinney was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Approximately 2,500 U.S. and 700 South Korean soldiers assembled into the 31st Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea, when it was attacked by overwhelming numbers of Chinese forces. As the Chinese attacks continued, American forces withdrew south. By December 6, the U.S. Army evacuated approximately 1,500 service members; the remaining soldiers had been either captured, killed or missing in enemy territory. McKinney was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after he was last seen on the east side of the Chosin Reservoir. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services.

McKinney's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing in Honolulu, 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. James I. Jubb, killed during the Korean War, has now been accounted for.
In August 1950, Jubb was a member of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, his unit suffered heavy losses while fighting units of the North Korean People's Army in the vicinity of the Naktong River, South Korea. Jubb was reported missing in action on Aug. 10, 1950 when he could not be accounted for by his unit. His remains were later declared unrecoverable. DPAA is appreciative to the Department of Veterans Affairs for their partnership in this mission. Interment services are pending; more details will be released 7-10 days prior to scheduled funeral services. Jubb's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the NMCP in Honolulu 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 Pete W. Simon, 34, of Grindstone, Pa., whose identification was previously announced, will be buried March 31 in Northfield, Ohio. Simon was a member of Company G, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. In September 1950, his unit participated in a defense of the Pusan Perimeter, a large defensive line west and north of Pusan, South Korea. Simon was reported to have been killed in action on Sept. 5, 1950, but his remains could not be located following the battle.

-- Army Cpl. William C. McDowell, 20, of Stuttgart, Arkansas, whose identification was previously announced, will be buried April 4 in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C. McDowell was a member of Company D, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. In late November 1950, his unit was assembled with South Korean soldiers in the 31st Regimental Combat Team on the east side of the Chosin River, North Korea, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces. McDowell was among more than 1,000 members of the RCT killed or captured in enemy territory and was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950.

-- Army Cpl. Roy J. Hopper, 21, of Miami, whose identification was previously announced, will be buried April 6 in Dayton, Ohio. Hopper was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment. He was reported killed in action on July 31, 1950, after his battalion engaged in a fighting withdrawal against North Korean forces in Chinju, South Korea. Following the battle, the enemy had control of the battlefield, preventing a search for his remains. Read about Hopper.

• A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Statement by Secretary David Shulkin on the Passing of Former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West, Jr.

With great sadness and deepest condolences to his family, we mourn the passing of Veteran and former Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Togo D. West, Jr.

Secretary West dedicated his life to serving others and was an unwavering advocate for our Nation’s Veterans. His legacy stands as a powerful testament to exemplary military, public, and legal service.

Distinguishing himself even as a young man, Secretary West earned the coveted title of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America in 1957 and graduated as Valedictorian of Atkins High School, Winston-Salem, NC, in 1959. His distinction as a student continued as he earned undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University, graduating first in his law school class.

Following military service from 1965 to 1973 as an Army Officer in both the Field Artillery and Judge Advocate General Corps, Secretary West then began a distinguished career as a public servant.

He served during the Carter Administration as General Counsel of the United States Navy, as Special Assistant to both the Deputy Secretary and the Secretary of Defense, and as General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Appointed twice by President Clinton, Togo West, Jr. served as Secretary of the United States Army from 1993 to 1998, and as the third Secretary of VA from 1998 to 2000.

Secretary West also served in private law practice, on the boards of important companies and non-profit institutions, worked as a Senior Vice President at the Northrop Corporation, was a member of many Washington, DC think tanks and influential organizations, and volunteered on numerous political campaigns.
On behalf of America's 20 million Veterans, I salute the memory of an amazing man who achieved so much during his life of service. Togo West, Jr. was a patriot, a devoted public servant, and a tireless advocate for all Veterans. I extend my deepest personal condolences, and the condolences of our VA workforce, to the entire West family.

David J. Shulkin, M.D.

Family/VSO/MSO Update Call
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Quarterly Call Notes
Thursday, March 8, 2018, 2:00 PM
‘Fulfilling Our Nation’s Promise’

DPAA Participants:
Mr. Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA
RDM Jon Kreitz, Deputy Director, DPAA
Mr. Scott Ebell, Chief of Staff, DPAA
Mr. John Hamilton, Director Policy & Plans
Mr. Todd Livick, Director, DPAA Outreach & Communications
Mr. Johnie Webb, Deputy Director, DPAA Outreach & Communications
Mrs. Jennifer Nasarenko, Deputy Director, DPAA Policy & Plans
Mr. Mike Fowler, DPAA Outreach & Communications
Dr. Tom Holland, Director, DPAA Strategic Partnerships
Colonel Chris Forbes, Director, European-Mediterranean Operations
Dr. John Byrd, Director DPAA Laboratory
Mr. Stewart Holbrook, Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Operations

Family-VSO-MSO Participants:
American Legion Freddy Gessner
Coalition of Families Donna Knox
Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Vincent Darcangelo
Honor Release Return, Inc. Moe Moyer
Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing Sherra Basham
Korean War Veterans Association Rocky Harder
Korean War POW/MIA Network John Zimmerlee
Special Operations Assn/Special Forces Assn Mike Taylor
TAPS Kathy Moakler
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Sarah Maples
Korean War Advocate Frank Metersky

Agenda
• Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission (Director Kelly McKeague)
• Operational Update and Southeast Asia Visit (Deputy Director RDM Jon Kreitz)
• Strategic Partnerships Update (Director, SP, Dr. Tom Holland)
• USRJC Update (Director, Europe-Mediterranean, COL Chris Forbes)
• IDs/Disinterments (DPAA Laboratory Director, Dr. John Byrd)
• Question and Answer

Update on the Personnel Accounting Mission:

Director’s Comments:
Budget - Our FY18 budget request of $131M is solid, but Continuing Resolutions (CR) cap us at our FY17 budget of $112M and are chaotic; Regarding the full appropriations bill- Met with staffers and all fully support mission and budget request, only one Senate committee had reductions, but allowed us to rebut. They even added $5M to expand public-private.

Sec Mattis Trip - Last month, visited VM; 1st stop after landing was Detachment 2; Comment to Defense Attaché -- "I had a great visit to DPAA. Those people really know what they're doing." - Later met with Vietnamese President and Minister of Defense, spoke about issue being foundational and advocated for more operational flex and archival access President Trump had raised the POW/MIA issue twice.

Other Interest - Widely-recognized as a humanitarian effort, mission continues to garner great interest – allowed to be one of few engagements with Russia (US Ambassador, Cold War Investigative Team in May); Deputy Assistant Secretary of State advocated for us with Indonesian President.

League and SOA/SFA Visits - Delegation from National League of Families and Special Operations Association/Special Forces Association (SOA/SFA) visited 4 countries in Southeast Asia. Besides our Detachments, they met with senior US and
Host Nation officials. - Particularly helpful in leveraging decades-long relationships and adding to our mission’s purposefulness to the host nation.

**Sanctions** - Visa sanctions imposed for deportee repatriation caused Cambodia to cease cooperating on MIA accounting (two FY18 missions cancelled); significant operational impacts, if sanctions are imposed on Laos and Vietnam, and either follows suit.

**San Diego FMU** - 250 family members, very successful event, representatives from Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, SOA, SFA, and one Representative’s office. Todd rightfully described the “definite vibe”; can’t help but come away even more convinced why ours is a noble mission, why it’s the right thing to do, and most importantly, why it matters.

**CMS and Public Portal** - Initial fielding next month; training and user acceptance testing will begin very soon - Case Management System (CMS) is one of the central directives, and codified in law, of DPAA’s existence.

**Significant Events Since Last Call (October 6)**
- November 4, 2017, Boise Family Member Update
- November 8, 2017, Congressional Dedication: Commemorative POW/MIA Chair in the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center
- November 11-12, 2017, POTUS to Vietnam: Detachment 2 participated in event at DaNang
- November 21, 2017, Repatriation Ceremony in South Korea
- November, 2017, Deputy Director traveled to Korea, Laos, Vietnam, & Thailand
- December 2, 2017, Director addressed the League Board Meeting
- December 7, 2017, Repatriation Ceremony in Vientiane, Laos
- January 12, 2018, Director addressed the Vietnam Veterans of America board meeting
- January 20, 2018, San Diego Family Member Update - 225 Family members representing 118 missing U.S. personnel (30.5%- Korean War, 29.6%-WWII, 39.8%-Vietnam War losses) attended with 106 first-time attendees.
- January 11-30, 2018, Separate delegations from the National League of POW/MIA Families and Special Operations Association (SOA)/Special Forces Association (SFA) visited Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand.
- January 24 – 26, 2018, SecDef Visit to Vietnam; event at Detachment 2

**Upcoming Events:**
- March 24 Jacksonville, FL, Family Update - Doubletree Hotel Jacksonville Airport
- March 2018, Director travel to Germany, Ukraine, & France
- March 24, 2018, Deputy Director address Vietnam Veterans Assoc., Hawaii Chapter
- March 27-28, 2018, USRJC WWII Tech Talks
- March 25-28, 2018, American Legion Conference in Washington, D.C.
- March 2018, Director travel to Southeast Asia
- March 01, 2018, Case Management System Initial Operational Capability
- March 4-8, 2018, VFW Legislative Conference
- March 10-25, 2018, VFW Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Executive Director travel to DPAA (Hawaii) and Southeast Asia
- March 18-31, Deputy Director travel to Guam, Japan, Indonesia, & Burma
- March 23, 2018, El Paso, TX, Annual Accounting Meeting
- March 24, 2018, El Paso, TX, Family Member Update
- March 29, 2018, National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- Tarawa Repatriation Ceremony (Pending)
- April 9, 2018, National Former POW Recognition Day
- April 21, 2018, Rapid City, SD, Family Member Update
- April 23-27, 2018, Vietnam War Technical Talks
- April 26, 2008, DPAA-Families/VSOs/MSOs and Partners Update Call-2 p.m. (Tentative)
- May 2018, Director leads China Tech Talks; ROK repatriation ceremony; & Japan visit
- May 20187, Deputy Director visits Germany, France, Italy, & Tunisia
- May 19, 2018, Louisville, KY, Family Member Update

**Operational Update (Deputy Director RDML Kreitz)**
We are on track to account for more than 200 personnel in FY18.
We had very successful Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in SEA; almost every team brought back possible osseous material.
We are making significant progress in Laos; we are bivouacking on site and using contracted EOD support for the first time to clear unexploded ordnance (UXO) and conduct site preparations prior to the teams arrival saving time and money, allowing more time to conduct a recovery.

WWII; History Flight is making progress in Tarawa – we had to reschedule the repatriation ceremony due to the Government shutdown; it is rescheduled for mid-March.

Working an underwater recovery in Palau.

Our investigation team in India had great success at three sites.

Doing lots of work with “partners” such as the University of Illinois- Chicago (UIC) in the Philippines.

Korean War; partnership with the Ministry of National Defense Agency for KIA (Killed in Action) Recovery and Identification (South Korea) (MAKRI) – great relationship and they continue to find U.S. unaccounted-for as they conduct their work.

Disinterments: we conducted 24 disinterments from the Manila American Cemetery.

In the upcoming months, I will be traveling to Guam, Japan, Indonesia, and Burma.

**Operations**

**Past Operations (Prior 60 days)**

**Asia-Pacific:**

**Vietnam War:**

Laos: 18-1LA (Oct 24 – Dec 12, 2017) 3 x RT (Recovery Team; 1 x IT (Investigative)

18-2LA (Jan 3 –Feb 12, 2018) 3 x RT; 1 x IT

Vietnam: 18-1VN (Oct 24 – 9 Dec 2017) 3 x RT; 3 x RIT (Recovery & Investigative Team);

1 x UE (Underwater excavation)

**World War II:**

Tarawa: 18-1KI (Jul 17 – Dec 2017) via HistoryFlight Group

Palau: 18-1PW (Nov 13, 2017 –Feb 14, 2018) 1 x UIT; 1 x URT (Underwater Recovery)

India: 18-1IN (Nov 1–Dec 10, 2017) 1 x IT

Philippines: 18-2PH (Nov 18, 2017–Mar 1, 2018) 1 x RT; 1 x IT via University of Illinois - Chicago

**Korean War:** FY18 Joint Planning Conference with MAKRI in Seoul, South Korea (Dec 4 – 8 2017)

**Disinterments:**

Punchbowl: Jan 8, 2018

Manila: DIS 18-3PH (Jan 15-29, 2018)

**World War II:**

**Euro-Med:**

DPAA exhume an isolated burial in Southern France, from October 9-14, 2017. Although the exhumation did not result in the recovery of remains, it did progress our efforts to account for the missing paratrooper. History Flight conducted recovery work in Northern France in August-September 2017, with positive results. Finally, DPAA conducted an investigation mission in Sicily from October 25 to November 12, 2018, investigating five cases, with three being recommended for future recovery work.

**Future Operations (Next 60-days):**

**Euro-Med:**

**World War II:**

DPAA will conduct four investigation missions between March and May 2018 in Italy, Poland, Romania, and Russia. DPAA will also conduct two recovery missions from April 15 to June 7, 2018 in Italy and France. Finally, DPAA will conduct recovery work from April 3-14, 2018 on three potential battlefield sites in Western Germany. DPAA will continue coordination efforts for future 4th Quarter (July-September) investigation and recovery missions.

**Asia-Pacific:**

**Vietnam War:**
Laos: 18-2LA (Jan 3–Feb 12, 2018) 3 x RT; 1 x IT

18-3LA (Mar 3–Apr 9, 2018) 3 x RT

Vietnam: 18-2VN (Feb 28 –Apr 15, 2018) 3 x RT; 1 x VRT; 2 x RIT; 1 x UE; 1 x URT

**World War II:**

Tarawa: 18-1KI (Feb 2018 – Jan 2019) via HistoryFlight Group

Palau: 18-1PW (Nov 13, 2017 –Feb 14, 2018) 1 x UIT / 1 x URT

India: 18-2IN (Feb 20 –Mar 21, 2018) 1 x RT via SEARCH, Inc.

Burma: 18-1MM (Feb 9–Mar 23, 2018) 1 x IT
Disinterments:
Punchbowl: Feb 12 & 26 and Mar 12 & 26, 2018
Manila: DIS 18-5PH (Mar 2 – 15, 2018), DIS 18-6PH (June)

Strategic Partnerships Update (Director, Strategic Partnerships. Dr. Holland)
DPAA’s Strategic Partnerships Directorate continues to mature the DPAA partnership program and processes, including planning, execution, and assessment of all activities. So far in FY18, we have completed or have in-progress three partner field missions, all in the Asia Pacific region (Philippines recovery, Philippines investigation, and UXO clearance in Laos). A new contract is on track for operations in Tarawa, which will provide for sustained recovery operations into the next fiscal year. To date, partner activities have led to four accessions in FY18.
Given the uncertainty of the current budget landscape, planning and execution of partner missions has been somewhat disrupted. Assuming full budget authority is provided for FY18, planned partnered field activities across the globe will include the following:
• AP  ○ Two investigations (UIC in the Philippines, University of Queensland, Australia in Papua New Guinea)  ■  Discussed the relationship the University of Queensland has working with the National Museum in PNG
  ○ One field school (East Carolina University conducting an underwater mission in Saipan; mapping sites)

  • EM  ○ Eight investigations (Belgium, Poland, Italy, Germany, Latvia, Kuwait, Italy)
    ○ Nine recoveries (Germany x6, Italy, Malta, France)
    ○ Three field schools (Austria, France, Germany)
    ○ Providing field support for activities (Germany, Poland, Russia)
    ○ Partnering with Scripps Institution of Oceanography on a Data sharing project for low or no-cost field activities (Alaska, Latvia)

DPAA continues to rely upon and strengthen the relationship with other host nation partners, such as MAKRI, the Vietnamese Office For Seeking Missing Persons and the Papua New Guinea Museum. We also work with other host nation entities to expand access for partner institutions throughout the AP area of operations.
We have achieved a $6.9M in savings from using Strategic Partnerships.
Productive year; current or pending partnerships with 60 different entities.
Expect to double our partnerships in FY19.

U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) Update (Director, Europe-Mediterranean, COL Forbes)
• USRJC held the 21st Plenary Session on November 8, 2017 in Moscow, Russia. Co-chaired by General (retired) Robert Foglesong, and General-Colonel (retired) Valery Vostrotin, the commissioners discussed ongoing efforts to identify missing personnel from the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Korean War and World War II. A major focus of this plenary session was to seek ways to access POW/MIA information from sensitive Russian archives and determine the best way to redact, declassify, and release pertinent information. At the invitation of the Russian government, representatives from the National League of POW/MIA Families and the VFW were observers at the November Plenum. DPAA is working with the Commission to extend invitations to other family and veteran organizations in the future.

• The World War II Working Group Technical Talks will be held on March 28, 2017, in Moscow, Russia. The focus will be research in the Russian Archives with former Foreign Service Nationals who are now working as contractors.

• In March, USRJC members will travel to Fort Ross Historic State Park in California to support Russia's efforts to restore the Russian cemetery there.

Identifications/Disinterments FY 2018 Review (DPAA Laboratory Director, Dr. Byrd)
During 1st Quarter, the Scientific Analysis Directorate successfully completed a five-year assessment for continued accreditation under ASCLD-LAB (ANAB). This included inspections of DPAA (Hawaii and Nebraska) laboratories.
Exhumations from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific were completed for USS West Virginia (35 caskets). The large-scale project teams (e.g., Korean War Project, Tarawa Project, USS Oklahoma Project etc.), continue to work diligently and are adding to the losses for identification in monthly loss review meetings.
Statistics:
FY 2018 Identifications, as of March 7, 2018:
- Total = 33 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel
- WWII = 23 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel
- Korean War = 7 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel
- Vietnam War = 3 identifications of unaccounted-for personnel

Additionally, we have another 30 under review, and 25 cases recently presented to the Medical Examiner; this the largest number ever to be presented at a single time.

**Question and Answer** – Now, I’ll turn it over to Mike Fowler to start the Q & A.

Donna Knox, Coalition of Families: Comment: Senator Heller (NV) has introduced S. 120 the Bring Our Heroes Home Act on declassification; how can we get this mission back to a humanitarian mission and get us back to North Korea?

Mr. McKeague: We are in frequent contact with the National Security Staff and the Department of State regarding resumption of accounting operations and they understand the humanitarian nature of our operations. The challenge they have is they don’t want the accounting mission to be used as leverage by North Korea. As you know, the North Koreans offered Governor Richardson a number of remains they had recovered; however, they never followed through on their offer.

Sherra Basham, Korea-Cold War Families of the Missing: No questions. Comment: We continue to be grateful to be invited to these updates.

Kathy Moakler, TAPS: No questions. Comment: Thank you for allowing TAPS to be included on these calls.

Sarah Maples, VFW: Comment: Thank you for your assistance in preparing for our March 2018 trip to Southeast Asia. The VFW also sent a letter to Congress to press for full funding of DPAA.

Freddy Gessner, American Legion: Comment: The Legion also sent a letter supporting DPAA funding to Congress. Thank you for all of your efforts to account for our missing.

Vincent Darcangelo, DAV: Comment: Thank you for the impressive tour of the Hawaii laboratory when I visited last fall.

Rocky Harder, Korean War Veterans Assn: Would it be helpful for the KWVA to write a letter to the Congress asking for full funding for DPAA?

Mr. McKeague: DPAA has no objection if the KWVA wishes to express their support for the accounting mission.

Mr. Harder: Will the crash sites in China near the North Korean border area that DPAA has been seeking permission to go to would be addressed during the upcoming technical talks?

Mr. McKeague: They have been in the past and will definitely be again, but I am not very optimistic on the likelihood of the Chinese granting permission.

Mr. Harder: Is there still a $10M mark against DPAA’s budget?

Mr. McKeague: Yes; it is still being considered in the subcommittee; however the full Congress has not yet reconciled the differences in House and Senate versions of the appropriations bill.

Mike Taylor, Special Operations Assn: Comment: I want to express our thanks and just how impressed we were by each and every member of the DPAA team and augmentees that we encountered during our trip to Southeast Asia.

Moe Moyer, Honor Release Return, Inc.: No questions or comments

John Zimmerlee, Korean War POW/MIA Network: No questions or comments

Frank Metersky, Korean War advocate: Comment: “I disagree with the idea that the North Koreans would try to leverage the accounting mission for other issues.” He related his long experience with dealing with the issue and that previous administrations feared the use of proceeds from the accounting mission would be utilized for the North Korean nuclear program.

Closing Comments by Mr. McKeague: Thanked everyone for their participation, insights, and contributions to the discussion.

**NEXT CALL**: Tentatively 26 April 2018.
KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION
Department of Florida

CONVENTION 2018

The John E. Mealy VFW Post 3282, 5810 South Williamson Blvd. Port Orange, FL 32128

Host Chapter, Robert McGuire Chapter 189

Saturday, April 28, 2018
Registration – 8:00 AM
General Membership Meeting – 9:00 AM
Lunch – 1200 Noon
Membership Meeting Ends – 3:00 PM
After Meeting (Cash Bar)Available

Overnight Lodging – Country Inn& Suites by Carlson
Room Reservations, Telephone: 800.456.4000
KWVA Room Rates are $109 + State and Local Taxes (Breakfast included)
This rate is available for Friday and Saturday Night, April 27 and 28
DEADLINE for this RATE is: April 15, 2018

Meeting Registration and Meal Reservations Form

Mail the information (page 2) and your check to:

KWVA DOF c/o Joan Arcand, Treasurer
5674 Bay Pine Lakes Blvd, St Petersburg, FL 33708

DEADLINE TO HAVE THIS FORM IN IS: APRIL 15, 2018
Sorry, we are unable to make any refunds if cancelled after April 15, 2018
VA announces rollout and application process for new 
Veterans ID Card

WASHINGTON — VA has announced that the application process for the national Veterans Identification Card (VIC) is now available for veterans — yet another action honoring their service.

This has been mandated through legislation since 2015 to honor veterans, and the rollout of the ID card fulfills that overdue promise.

Only those veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card, which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD Form 214 to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to veterans.

“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most veterans to show proof of service,” said VA secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “With the card, veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain veteran discounts and other services.”

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the Armed Forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, veterans must visit vets.gov, click on “Sign In” in the top right hand corner and establish an ID.me account. Once the veteran verifies their identity they may request to “Apply for the Veteran ID Card”.

Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov. A digital version of the VIC will be available online soon.

Army to begin providing medical care to Chem/Bio research volunteers

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The U.S. Army is notifying veterans that they may be eligible to receive medical care if they participated in U.S. Army chemical or biological substance testing from 1942 to 1975 and have an injury or disease that they believe was proximately caused by their participation. Recently a class action lawsuit filed by the Vietnam Veterans of America required the U.S. Army to provide medical care to veterans who volunteered to contribute to the advancement of the U.S. biological and chemical programs.

To be eligible for medical care, veterans who may fall within this identified class must have:

- A Department of Defense Form 214 or War Department discharge/separation form(s) or the functional equivalent.
- Served as a volunteer medical research subject in a U.S. Army chemical or biological substance testing program from 1942 to 1975, including the receipt of medications or vaccines under the U.S. Army investigational drug review.
- A diagnosed medical condition they believe to be a direct result of their participation in a U.S. Army chemical or biological substance testing program.

Medical care, to include medications, will be provided at the closest military medical treatment facility that has the capability and capacity. Medical care will be provided on a space available basis for a specific period of time as described in the authorization letter, and is supplemental to the comprehensive medical care a plaintiff is entitled to receive through the VA based on their status as a veteran.

Eligible veterans are encouraged to go to http://armymedicine.mil/Pages/cbtp.aspx or call (800) 984-8523 if they have any questions or need assistance.
Sales surge after launch of veterans online shopping benefit

By Tom Shull, Director/Chief Executive Officer, Army & Air Force Exchange Service

After the official launch on Veterans Day of the veterans online shopping benefit, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service saw record sales as veterans returned to the military community to shop, save and give back. Tell your veteran friends and family to go to ShopMyExchange.com to take advantage of their new benefit.

Sales from veterans online shopping benefit will help improve the quality of life of existing service members and their families as Exchange earnings support critical military Quality-of-Life programs, including combat uniforms at cost, school lunches for warfighters' children overseas, child development centers, fitness centers, youth programs on Army garrisons, Air Force Outdoor Recreation programs, and more.

Thank you for your service and sacrifice, and for allowing us to do our part to support your family and team!
As I suffered through a 40-page "summary" of the recent tax-law changes, I was struck by the thought that the latest overhaul has yet to get us to the point of simplicity.

Is it better or worse? That'll depend on your personal situation. But one thing's for certain: It will be different. Here's a brief, and by no means comprehensive, overview of some of the changes you may notice next year:

- **Lower rates.** Tax rates are dropping, and in some cases the amount of money subject to the lower rates is expanding.

- **A bigger standard deduction.** The individual standard deduction will rise from $6,350 in 2017 to $12,000 in 2018. For couples filing jointly, the increase is from $12,700 to $24,000. Sounds exciting, but ...

- **Personal exemption disappears.** In 2017, most taxpayers could claim a $4,050 personal exemption. So in 2017, a married couple filing jointly with no dependents would have a standard deduction/exemption total of $20,800. In 2018, the standard deduction will be $24,000, but there will be no personal exemption. It's better, but the loss of personal exemptions takes a bit of shine off the higher standard deduction.

- **Kids pay off.** The child tax credit increases to $2,000 from $1,000, and there's even a $500 credit for qualifying non-child dependents. Income eligibility thresholds also increase. A credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in your tax liability. So it's more valuable than a deduction, which just reduces the amount of your income that is taxed.

- **Home equity debt not deductible.** Details are still pending, but the interest on home equity loans used for purposes other than acquiring, building or substantially improving your home will no longer be deductible. This will make consolidating other debts using your home equity less attractive - and that may not be a bad thing.

- **New inflation measurement.** The new "chained" measure of inflation used under the new law will result in slower growth of income levels within the tax brackets. Over time, this will mean you'll pay more taxes than you would have under the old inflation measurement.

- **Recharacterization of IRA contributions.** Before 2018, if you converted a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA and the markets plummeted, you could undo the transaction. That's no longer an option.

- **$10K cap on state and local tax deduction.** This change has probably received the most press. In 2017, state and local income taxes, sales taxes and property taxes are all deductible without limit. In 2018, there's a maximum total deduction of $10,000 for all these taxes.

- **$29 available for pre-college expenses.** Up to $10,000 per student can be used each year for private K-12 expenses.

- **No more miscellaneous deductions.** The deduction for this class of expenses, which had to exceed 2 percent of your adjusted gross income, is gone.

- **Bid adieu to moving expenses.** Generally, moving expenses won't be deductible under the new law. There is an exception for servicemembers who have a permanent change of station.

Most of these changes sunset in 2025, so don't get too used to them.
The General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation was established in 1971 by Ri-Jin Kim, a Korean War veteran, to honor General Walton H. Walker, the first 8th Army Commander in Korea. General Walker, who issued the order, “Stand or Die”, is a hero who defended the Pusan Perimeter, and the Nakdong River Line during the Korean War despite being outnumbered and outgunned by North Korean forces. The Foundation under the leadership of current Chairman, Jong Min Kim, is proud to provide scholarships to descendants of Korean veterans to express appreciation for the sacrifices made by veterans that has allowed South Koreans to enjoy freedom and peace today.

Scholarship Program
The General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation Scholarship Program consists of fifteen (15) $2,000 non-renewable scholarships. The funds may be used for any term during the next academic school year following receipt of the scholarship. Although this scholarship is not renewable, the applicants may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Qualifications
- The applicant **MUST** be a descendent (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Veteran of Korea who is a Regular Member, currently in good standing, of the Korean War Veterans Association. Descendants of deceased veterans are eligible to apply with proof of the Veterans service.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- First year students must have a Letter of Acceptance as a full-time student from the applicant’s university or college.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript. High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school names printed on them.
  - For high school students entering college this is cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.
  - For students currently at a freshman level in college it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.
  - For college students who are sophomores or higher, it is their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-400 word personal essay entitled, “*What should the United States do to combat the world threat posed by the North Korean regime*”.
- Descendants of Korean War Veterans who are currently serving as a member of the **National KWVA Board of Directors** and descendants of members of the Scholarship Selection Committee are not eligible.

Deadlines
All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via US Postal Service and **RECEIVED by May 1, 2018**.
- The Scholarship Selection Committee will not acknowledge receipt of applications. For verification that it was received, send the application via US Postal Service Certified Mail.
- Faxes or emails will not be accepted.

Notification to Recipients
All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about May 10, 2018. **Only recipients will be notified.** Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient’s college or university to be credited to the student’s account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final. Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington, D.C. on May 28, 2018 during the Memorial Day ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

**Required Materials**
The following items are required to complete the application process. These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed. All items received separately, except transcripts which may be mailed directly from your school, will not be considered.

- Application – must be on the original form, printed legibly or typed and signed.
- Essay – must be typed (double spaced) consisting of 300-400 words.
- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.
- First year student’s Letter of Acceptance.
- Proof of service for applicants deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

**Mailing Address**
General Walton Walker Memorial Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
310 Clay Hill Drive
Winchester, VA 22602
GENERAL WALTON WALKER
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Student Information
Applicant’s Full Name_________________________________ Date of Birth_______________
Home Address________________________________________________________________________
City_________________________________ State_________ Zip________
Phone__________________________ Email__________________________________________
Name of Applicant’s Korea Veteran Ancestor__________________________________________
Applicant’s Relationship to Veteran____________________ KWVA Member #____________
Note: If Applicant’s Ancestor is deceased, applicant must provide proof of service.

College or University Information
School the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an Associate, Bachelor or
Advanced degree.
In the 2018 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:
[ ]  Freshman   [ ]  Sophomore   [ ]  Junior   [ ]  Senior   [ ]  Advanced Degree
School __________________________________________ Degree Sought ________________
School Address_____________________ City___________ ______  State_____  Zip ________
Financial Aid Officer _____________________________ Email___________________________
Address ___________________________________________ Phone______________

Current Information
Cumulative GPA (as described on information sheet) ____/4.0 scale.

In the space provided in each of the following categories, list your most prominent activities, leadership positions held
and honors/awards received.

Scholastic Activities
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

In-School Extracurricular Activities
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Community Activities
______________________________________________________________________________
By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn. (Terms: I understand that I must be officially accepted for enrollment in 2018 classes at the school stated.)

Signature _________________________________ Date __________________________
American Veterans of Korea Foundation
Honorable Kim, Jung Hoon, Chairman

2018-19 Korea Veterans Scholarship Program

The Korea Veterans Scholarship Program is an outreach of the American Veterans of Korea Foundation (AVKF), a foundation founded by the Honorable Representative Kim, Jung Hoon, member of the Republic of Korea National Assembly. The AVKF’s mission is to provide support to American Veterans of Korea and their families in appreciation for the selfless sacrifices of United States veterans for Korea’s peace and freedom during the Korean War and to honor their legacy.

Scholarship Program
This Scholarship Program consists of multiple $2,000 non-renewable scholarships. The funds may be used for any term during the next academic school year following receipt of the scholarship. Although this scholarship is not renewable, the applicants may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

Qualifications
- The applicant MUST be a descendant (child, grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Veteran of Korea who is a Regular Member, currently in good standing, of the Korean War Veterans Association. Descendants of deceased veterans are eligible to apply with proof of Veterans service.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- First year students must have a Letter of Acceptance as a full-time student from the applicant’s university or college.
- Must be pursuing an Associate, Bachelor, or Advanced Degree in any discipline.
- Must have a minimum 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. GPA stated on application must be verifiable from transcript. High school and college transcripts must be submitted and must have school names printed on them.
  - For high school students entering college this is cumulative GPA for grades 9-11 and first semester of 12th grade.
  - For students currently at a freshmen level in college it is cumulative GPA for grades 9-12 and first semester of college.
  - For college students who are sophomores or higher, it is their college transcript for all semesters completed.
- Must submit a 300-400 word personal essay entitled, “Historical Lessons Learned from the Korean War”.

- Descendants of Korean War Veterans who are currently serving as a member of the National KWVA Board of Directors and descendants of members of the Scholarship Selection Committee are not eligible.

Deadlines
All scholarship applications and requested materials must be submitted via US Postal Service and RECEIVED by June 10, 2018.
- The Scholarship Selection Committee will not acknowledge receipt of applications. For verification that it was received, send the application via U. S. Postal Service Certified Mail.
- Faxes or emails will not be accepted.
Notification to Recipients
All scholarship recipients will be notified on or about July 1, 2018. Only recipients will be notified. Checks will be delivered to the Financial Aid Officer at the recipient’s college or university to be credited to the student’s account. All decisions made by the Scholarship Selection Committee will be final.

Scholarship recipients will be recognized in Washington, D. C. in July 2018 during the commemoration ceremony at our Korean War Memorial. Detailed information will be provided to Scholarship recipients at a later date. Although attendance is not mandatory, scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend. Underage recipients are encouraged to travel with an accompanying adult.

Required Materials
The following items are required to complete the application process. These items must be submitted in a single envelope in the order listed. All items received separately, except transcripts which may be mailed directly from your school, will not be considered.

- Application – must be on the original form, printed legibly or typed and signed.
  
  Note: You MUST use the 2018-19 Application Form which supersedes all previous Application Forms and add no extra sheets.

- Essay – must be typed (double spaced) consisting of 300-400 words.

- GPA – submit all applicable high school and college transcripts.

- First year student’s Letter of Acceptance.

- Proof of service for applicant’s deceased Korea Veteran ancestor.

Mailing Address
American Veterans of Korea Foundation
Scholarship Selection Committee
310 Clay Hill Drive
Winchester, VA 22602
AMERICAN VETERANS OF KOREA FOUNDATION
Korea Veterans Scholarship Program

APPLICATION FORM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Student Information
Applicant’s Full Name________________________________ Date of Birth________________
Home Address______________________________________________________________
City________________________ State____ Zip____________________
Phone________________ E-mail____________________________________
Name of Applicant’s Korea Veteran Ancestor__________________________________________
Applicant’s Relationship to Veteran_________________ KWVA Member #_____________
Note: If Applicant’s Ancestor is deceased, applicant must provide proof of service.

College or University Information
The name of the school the student will be attending or is currently attending on a full-time basis leading to an
Associate, Bachelor or Advanced degree.
In the 2018 Fall Semester I will enroll as a:
( ) Freshman ( ) Sophomore ( ) Junior ( ) Senior ( ) Advanced Degree
School_______________________________________ Degree Sought________________
School Address_______________________City__________ _______State_____Zip_______
Financial Aid Officer____________________________ E-mail________________________
Address____________________________________________ Phone_________________

Current Information
Cumulative GPA (as described on information sheet)_____/4.0 scale.
In the space provided in each of the following categories, list your most prominent activities, leadership
positions held and honors/awards received.

Scholastic Activities
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

In-School Extracurricular Activities
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Community Activities

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

Employment History including Military Experience

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

By my signature, I certify that all information and documents included in my application for this scholarship are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Further, my signature certifies I understand that if the terms of the scholarship are violated, the scholarship will be withdrawn. (Terms: I understand that I must be officially accepted for enrollment in 2018 classes at the school stated.)

Signature_____________________________________ Date____________________________


APPLY TO BE A 2018 KOREA DEFENSE VETERAN ASSOCIATION SCHOLAR

KDVA is awarding University and College Scholarships in the amount of $5,000 each.
Applications to become a KDVA Scholar are due by April 13, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. EST

The KDVA Scholarship Program provides scholarships to KDVA members and their spouses, children, grandchildren (including step children) to help them attain their educational goals.
Scholarships are awarded only for coursework from accredited institutions.

Eligibility

1. Applicant must be a member of KDVA or the spouses, children or grandchildren, (including step children) of a KDVA member who served honorably.
2. Applicant must be accepted into an accredited college or university.
3. Applicant must be a high school graduate with a minimum of a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) to apply.

APPLY TO BE A KDVA SCHOLAR

KDVA recognizes the importance of education and the role it plays in personal, professional and economic fulfillment.
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2. Applicant must be accepted into an accredited college or university.

3. Applicant must be a high school graduate with a minimum of a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) to apply.

Evaluation Criteria:

The application will assess five major areas: GPA, Essay, Extracurricular Activities, and Leadership in Extracurricular Activities, and Financial Need.

The five categories are evaluated and weighted as follows:

- GPA – 25 points
- Essay – 25 points
- Extracurricular Activities – 20 points
- Leadership – 20 points
- Financial Need – 10 points

Total points possible – 100

Refer to KDVA Application – This form is required and must be submitted online.

Awards: Selection of the KDVA Scholarship recipients are made by a Scholarship Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the KDVA.

Scholarships are awarded only to students accepted to accredited institutions. The funds will be sent to the academic institution for documented expenses and must be used in the academic year awarded. The academic year of the award begins the Fall semester after the award announcement. These funds may not be used for prior academic expenses.

If selected, KDVA Scholarship recipients are to provide: a) a photograph and a statement for use in KDVA publications, newsletter, website, social media, and marketing materials, etc. and b) follow-up information and feedback as to how the KDVA scholarship assisted in their education for KDVA research and marketing.
Application Deadline:

All application materials, including the application form, official transcript(s), proof of matriculation at designated accredited academic institution, essay, list of involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership positions in extracurricular activities, and written statement of need.

Application must be submitted and received via email scholarship@kdva.vet not later than Friday, April 13, 2018.

CONTACT INFORMATION

FULL NAME: ________________________________________________________________

CURRENT ADDRESS: _________________________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER: __________________________________________________________

EMAIL: _________________________________________________________________

I AM A KDVA MEMBER OR CHILD, GRANDCHILD, STEP-CHILD, SPOUSE OF KDVA MEMBER.

CHECK YES

NAME OF KDVA MEMBER: __________________________________________________

RELATIONSHIP OF KDVA MEMBER: ________________________________________

EDUCATION INFORMATION

NAME/ADDRESS OF CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY:
________________________________________________________________________

DATE OF GRADUATION AND/OR EXPECTED DATE OF GRADUATION: ________________

NAME OF SCHOOL POINT OF CONTACT (EX: GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, ADVISOR OR TEACHER) 
________________________________________________________________________
KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR SCHOOL POINT OF CONTACT:
EMAIL: ____________________________________________ ____________________
PHONE: ____________________________________________ ___________________

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA):
**Must include high school transcript or grade point average for most recent semester completed with application.

LIST NAME AND ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE YOU HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND PLAN TO ATTEND/OR ARE ATTENDING:
___________________________________________________ _________________________
___________________________________________________ _________________________
___________________________________________________ _________________________
___________________________________________________ _________________________
**Must include letter of acceptance from college or university you plan to attend.

PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN ESSAY on “The Importance of the ROK-US Alliance – Now and Into the Future” **
Essay must be 2 pages or less, typed, 12 font, Times New Roman, double-spaced and attached with application

PREPARE AND ATTACH A STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL NEED In 250 words or less describe your financial need for this scholarship. **Statement must be typed, 12 font, Times New Roman and attached with application
KOREA DEFENSE VETERANS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 3

LIST OF SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (SPORTS, CLUB ACTIVITIES, COMMUNITY/CIVIC ACTIVITIES, EMPLOYMENT, ETC):

1. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

4. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

5. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

LIST OF LEADERSHIP ROLES IN ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE, AS APPLICABLE:

1. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

4. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________

5. ____________________________________________________________
   FROM (DATE): _________________________ TO (DATE): _________________________
RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: SCHOLARSHIP@KDVA.VET
(DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018)

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT:

I certify that the foregoing facts set forth in this application are true and accurate. I understand that if any statements contained herein are false, I will not be considered for a scholarship or if such a scholarship has been granted, it is subject to forfeiture. I further authorize and give permission to KDVA or their duly authorized representative to investigate the statements contained in this application, to contact any person or institution named herein, and to require any information it may desire with respect thereto. If awarded a scholarship, KDVA Scholarship recipients agree to provide: a) a photograph and a statement for use in KDVA publications, newsletter, website, social media, and marketing materials, etc. and b) follow-up information and feedback as to how the KDVA scholarship assisted in their education for KDVA research and marketing.

________________________________________________________________________

APPLICANT’S FULL NAME

________________________________________________________________________

APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE                                      DATE
Check list of what must be sent in with application for consideration.

1. Completed typed or computer-generated application
2. Verification of KDVA membership or child, grandchild, step child, spouse of KDVA member
3. Official transcript from high school/university through the most recent semester completed showing your grade point average.
4. Letter of acceptance from the University/College you have applied to or are attending.
5. Essay on “The Importance of the ROK-US Alliance – Now and Into the Future”
6. Financial Statement of Need
7. List of school, community activities, and/or employment experience
8. List of leadership roles therein in activities listed above.

For more information visit: www.kdva.vet/programs/scholarship
• **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
- Arlington National Cemetery 703.607.8585 www.arlingtoncemetery.mil
- Board of Veterans Appeals 202.565.5436
- 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**
- 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
- Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition 202.225.6600 www.ruralhealthinfo.org

**Other Veteran Related Offices and Agencies**
- U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims 202.418.3453 uscourts.cavc.gov
- Questions on specific Cases 202.501.5970
- USO 888.484.3876 https://www.uso.org

**POW/MIA**
- Department of Defense, POW/MIA Affairs 703.699.1169 http://www.dpaa.mil/

**Incarcerated Veteran**

**PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder)**
- 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**
- Army Worldwide Locator 866.771.6357 hqdamnet.army.mil/mpsa/per_locator.htm
- Navy Times Locator Services 901.874.3388 https://www.navytimes.com
- Personnel Locator 800.333.4636

**Archives**
- Marine Corps Historical Office 703.432.4877 guides.gsc.usmcu.edu/archives
- 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
• **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

Respectfully submitted,

*James R. Fisher*

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